

LPA DISTRICT 11 – NEWSCLIPS VOL. 2 1968-1971

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## District 11 – Brief History

Little People of America, LPA, was founded in Reno, Nevada, in 1957.

Twenty individuals responded to Billy Barty's invitation to gather and discuss the formation of an organization to address issues facing people with short stature. At that meeting Billy Barty, California, was elected the first President of LPA and Dan Turner, South Carolina, was elected Vice President, elect.

The second national convention of LPA was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Dan Turner was then President. A governance proposal was introduced and accepted by the membership in attendance. The governance proposal included a National Leadership of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and 11 District Directors who would serve as the Board of Directors. Each District Director was also responsible for recruiting members and organizing events and activities within the states served by each district.

District 11 included the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, a territory covering 1,080,182 sq. miles. The first Director was Lloyd King, a barber who lived in the Tacoma area, and the Secretary was Shirley Berg, of Birkenfeld, Oregon.



## District 11 Newsclips 1961 – 1976

### Persons, Events, Places

1961

Alexander, Joe  
Anderson, Mrs  
Albert  
Barty, Billy  
Barty, shirley  
Berg, Shirley  
Birkenfeld, Oregon  
Bradshaw, Tom  
Brandisma, Evelyn  
Brooks, Wally  
Desart, Allen  
Furlong, Emma  
Gant, Muriel  
Gant, Vivian  
Gossage, Willis  
Groeneveld, Frieda  
Johnson, Waino &  
Lillie  
King, Lloyd  
Kitchens, Lee  
McDonald, Ken  
Nichols, Kenneth  
Ollis, Margaret  
Owen, Agnes  
Reed, Stevie  
Sutton, Mrs M. J.  
Trapp, Joel  
Warr, Earl  
Wennes, Alice  
Ziska, Dallas &  
Martha

1962

Barty, Billy  
Berg, Shirley  
Brooks, Wally  
Carr, Larry

Groeneveld, Frieda  
Reed, Stevie

1963

Albough, Bill  
Brooks, Mr. and Mrs  
Daly, Louise  
Groenveld, Frieda  
Haywar, Tom

1964

Berg, Shirley  
Bradshaw, Tom  
Brooks, Wally  
Darrington, Wash  
Furlong, Emma  
Gant, Vivian  
Groenveld, Frieda  
Owen, Agnes  
Pemble, Penny  
Reed, Stevie

1965

]Kelly, Faye  
Albough, Bill  
Berg, Shirley  
Bradshaw, Tom  
Carr, Larry  
Curtis, Delores  
Furlong, Emma  
Gant, Muriel  
Gant, Vivian  
Groenveld, Frieda  
Hayward, Tom  
Huizenga, Buck  
Lynnwood, Wash  
Maren, Jerry  
McLeod, Richard  
Pemble, Penny

1966



1966 Alexander, Joe  
 Barta, Mrs Thomas  
 Bartolotti, Karen  
 Berg, Shirley  
 Gant, Vivian  
 Groenveld, Frieda  
 Hood Canal, Wash  
 Leonard, Lingle  
 Lynnwood, Wash  
 McLeod, Richard  
 Megenity, Jim  
 Myers, Eleanor  
 Newberg, Oregon  
 Owen, Agnes  
 Pemble, Penny  
 Reed, Stevie  
 Scharrer, Louis R.  
 Vermillion, Jo Lynn

1967 Albrecht, Angie  
 Alexander, Joe &  
 Martha  
 Barty, Billy  
 Belanger, Clark  
 Berg, Shirley  
 Bertolotti, Karen  
 Birkenfeld, Oregon  
 Bradford, David  
 Bradford, Randy  
 Bradford, B.J.  
 Furlong, Emma  
 Groenveld, Frieda  
 Harris, Sandra  
 Henderson, Tom  
 Hollywood, Calif  
 Hubof, Robert  
 Kitchens, Lee and Mary  
 Longview, Wash  
 Owen, Agnes  
 Perfetti, Donna  
 Reckendorf, Frank and  
 Lisa  
 Reckendorf, Peter

Reed, Stevie  
 Roethle, Susan  
 Rossitto, George  
 Shaw, Genevieve  
 Silla, Felix  
 Spokane, Wash  
 Steele, Gracie & Henry  
 Street, Henry & Gracie  
 Thomas, Lydia  
 Van Loo, Mardi  
 VanLoo, Gloria  
 Vining, Fern  
 Vining, Ralph  
 Wade, Mimi

1968 Albrecht, Angie  
 Alexander, Joe  
 Alexander, Marth  
 Baltimore, Maryland  
 Barty, Billy  
 Berg, Linda  
 Carr, Mr and Mrs Larry  
 Carter, Sid  
 Corvallis, Oregon  
 Erdman, Harold  
 Gehrman, Art  
 Goldendale, Wash  
 Groenveld, Frieda  
 Harris, Doyle  
 Howard, Darin  
 Howard, Jody  
 Hubof, Robert  
 Kuhlman, Hank  
 Kuhlman, Kayla  
 McLeod, Richard  
 Pemble, Penny  
 Poulsbo, Wash  
 Street, Henry & Gracie  
 Vinning, Fern



1969

Albough, Bill & Marie  
Berg, Linda  
Groenveld, Frieda  
Harris, Doyle  
Lee, Darin  
Lee, Judy  
Lindholm, Grant  
Minneapolis, Minn  
Olympia, Wash  
Pullman, Wash  
Reckendorf, Karel  
Reckendorf, Lisa  
Reckendorf, Peter  
Ronning, Jill

1970

Alexander, Joe  
Barta, Mary  
Bedow, Charles  
Coeur d' Alene, Idaho  
Corbin, Barbara  
Eley, Mary Beth  
Groenveld, Frieda  
Hubof, Robert  
Kuhlman, Kayla  
Lee, Mrs Robert  
Malecki, James  
Olympia, Wash  
Pemble, Penny  
Pocock, Charles  
Portland, OR  
Reckendorf, Lisa  
Reckendorf, Peter & Karel  
Reckendorf, Peter and  
Karel  
Tacoma, Wash  
Vining, Fern  
Whorton, Sharon  
Zellman, Marilyn

1971

Alexander, Martha  
Scharrer, Louis R.

Shaw, Evan  
Van Loo, Gloria

Other Districts (OD)

1962

Barty, Billy and Shirley  
Carlino, Nino & Maryjane

1963

Binion, Dennis  
Kitchens, Lee and Mary  
Kitchens, Sandra  
Polston, Phyllis  
Warr, Earl

1964

Alden, Mrs Maurice  
Bourassa, Alice  
Brock, Mrs, Norman  
Brock, Norman  
Brower, Bob & Marcella  
Hughes, Clarence  
Phoenix, Arizona  
Taylor, Mrs. Danny  
Waddel, Mr & Mrs Fred  
Warr, Earl  
Wilcoxson, Hazel  
Willer, David



1965

Baehm, George  
Bakersfield, Calif  
Barty, Billy  
Bedow, Charles  
Bedow, Sallie  
Brown Kenneth  
Dee, Frank  
District 12  
Dolinajek, Paul  
Dunn, Michael  
Gloucheter, N.J.  
Helassie, Saile  
Hinkson, Bob  
Hoppert, Harriet  
Hubof, Robert  
Human Growth  
Hormone  
Jackie, Irish  
Jacobs, Marshall &  
Bobby  
Kitchens, Lee  
Mikos, Anne  
Moore, Marcia  
Ostrow, Eleanor  
Perryman, Mary Belle  
Riley, Harold  
Schuster, Kathy  
Spector, Robert  
Welbes, Ralph  
White, Alan  
Williams, Ernel &  
Herbert

1967

Hoppert, Harriet  
Human Growth  
Hormone  
Kling, Stevie  
Stickney, Al

1968

Dunn, Michael  
Genetics  
Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Kitchens, Lee

McKusick, Dr. Victor  
Moore Clinic  
National Pituitary  
Agency  
Pentorn, Phyllis  
Spector, Robert

1969

Berg, Linda  
Burgin, Robert  
East, Bpb  
Hagen, Jill  
Hagen, Mr. & Mrs.  
James  
Rasa, Gerald  
Stickney, Harriet

1970

Barty, Billy  
Boursse, Andre  
Stickney, Al  
Strange, Carolyn

1971

Brooks, Wally

1972

Alexander, Joe and  
Martha  
Billy Barty  
Brooks, Wally  
Burley, Idaho  
Chicago, Illinois  
Hall, Dr. Judy  
Howard, Mrs Wally  
Howard, Polly & Sandy  
McKusick, Dr. Victor  
Myers, Jennie and Lyle  
Siebens, Dr. Arthur  
Spraker, Mrs Jack  
Stickney, Al & Harriet

1973

Genetic Counseling  
Hall, Dr. Judy  
Spraker, Barbara & Jack  
Mezaros, Mihaly  
Brooks, Wally



Pacheco, Sergio

1976

Beckman, John

Denny's Restraunt



# DISTRICT ELEVEN



*Welcomes you to*

## GOLDENDALE



### 'Little People' hold district meet here

By Pete May

Although it was a personal event in the lives of a group of people, the meeting of Little People of America in Goldendale last weekend also was a matter of community interest. Because of this, those of us who were privileged to get detailed glimpses of this unusual (for us) occurrence wish to share it with you, the reader.

We met them (the Little People) at the

Joe Alexander home, at the bowling lanes, at their banquet and social event Saturday evening. We found the 38 LPA members to be, without exception, jolly and full of fun, and greatly enjoying company made up largely of others like themselves. (It's good to be able to associate with others your own size, we learned, and this accounts for the success of their meetings, more than any other factor.)

DISTRICT 11 LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA who met in semi-annual meeting in Goldendale last week are shown in this picture, taken at Goldendale Country Club. The 38 shown here vary from "Little Littles" to middle age.

On meeting them and becoming acquainted, we learned they range from 3½ feet to 4½ feet (4' 10" or less) in height, as adults. Their short stature is the result of several different types of handicap. Most of those in Goldendale Saturday are known as achondroplastics, meaning that they are small simply because their legs and arms have never grown in length in proportion to their bodies. Because they have short legs, they don't get very high off the ground, and because they have short arms, they are limited in how high they can reach.

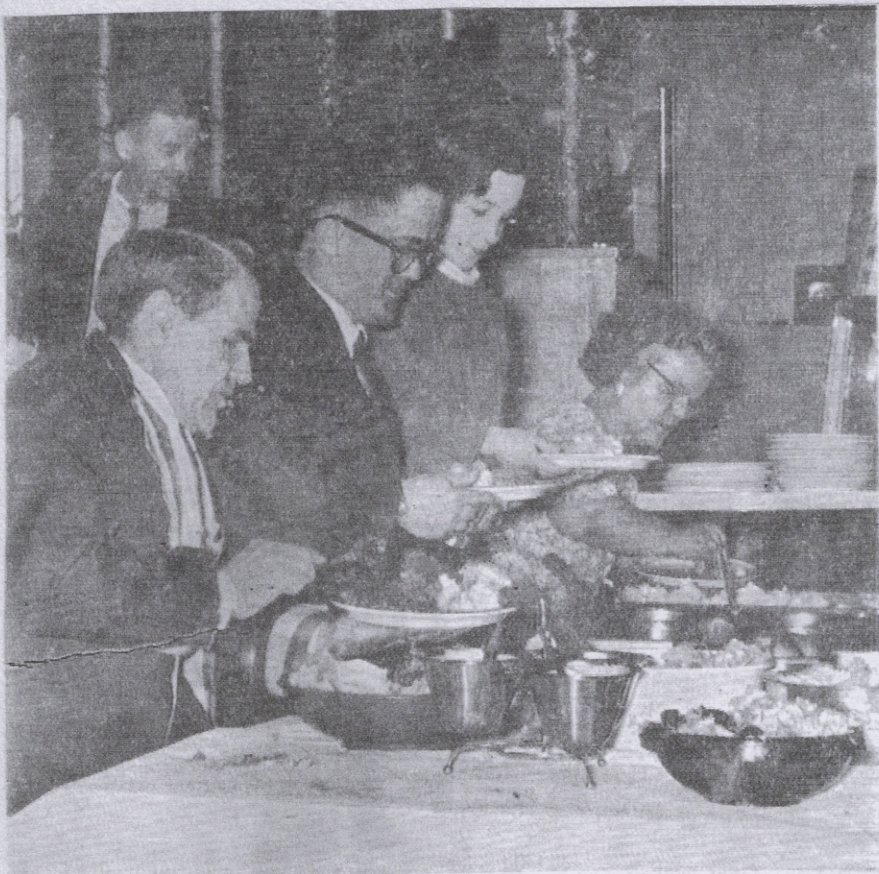
There are a number of other types, including pituitary dwarfs, whose entire

growth rate has been very slow. This results in well-proportioned bodies which never achieve natural size. (One such man told Joe Alexander he had grown until he reached the age of 45.)

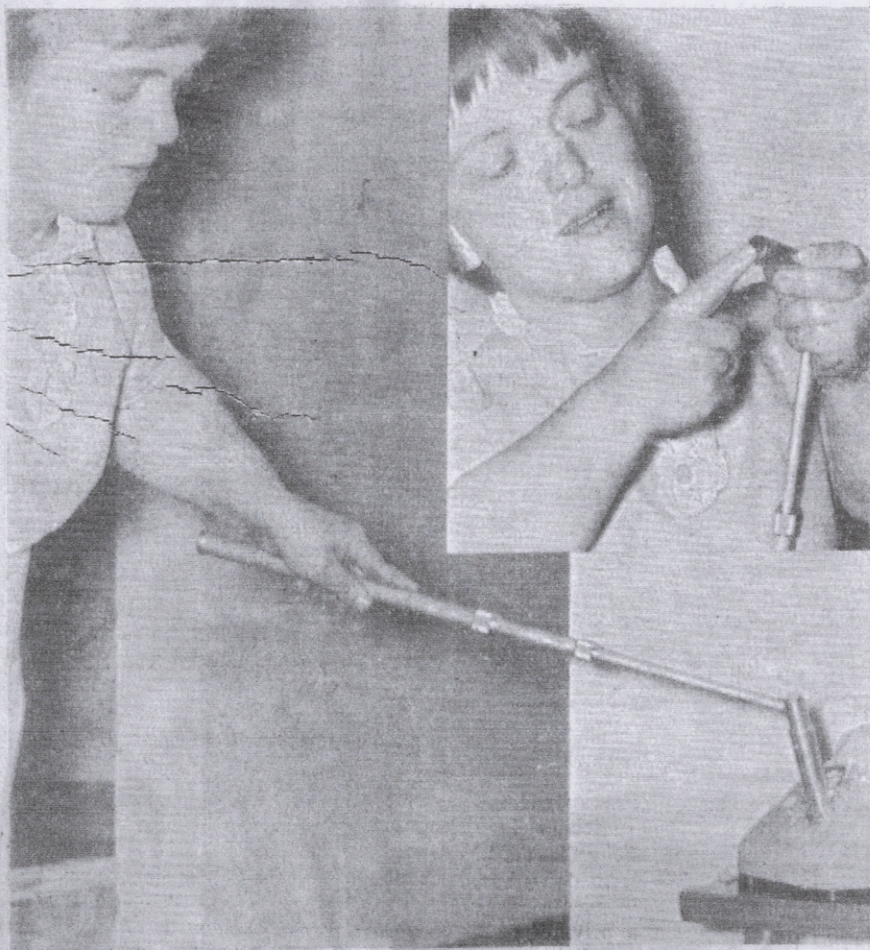
Although the LPA members who came to Goldendale numbered only 38, another 24 normal-sized persons were on hand for the semi-annual district meeting, too. They are either members of the Parents Auxiliary, or spouses of married LPs. (Most Little People find it best to marry other LPs, and the children of such unions are as apt to be nor-

(Continued on Page 4)





SERVING THEMSELVES AT BUFFET BANQUET are LPA members Harold Erdman, Spokane; Dick McLeod, Puyallup; Miss Angie Albrecht, Wishram, and Mrs. Stan Malecki, Goldendale. Mr. Malecki is in background at left.



"THIS IS WHERE THE DIME FITS," says Frieda Groeneveld (inset) in demonstrating use of the extension handle for telephone dialing. It is really intended for use with a booth phone, or wall phone, also for reaching articles on high shelves.



DANCE WHICH followed banquet saw Mr. and Mrs. Henry Street of Spokane dancing in this view of Little People's district meet.

## 'Little People' hold district meet here

(Continued from Page 1)

mal in size as to be dwarfed.) The full-sized parents of "Little Littles" (as children who are destined to be dwarfed are called) in particular have found that they have a great opportunity for service as an auxiliary group, both to the LPs and to themselves.

"The most difficult thing was facing the knowledge that my son would never attain full growth," one parent said. "The next was breaking the news to my family and friends." As the parents met in separate convention, they talked over these problems and offered advice to each other—also studied the different features of each case described to them.

"We have tried very hard to avoid being overprotective," said one couple. "Our little boy has learned to do things for himself, and to be self-reliant."

Other parents had other bits of advice, or experience, to relate. However, the chairman, Mrs. Frank Reckendorff of Corvallis, Or., said: "We expected to get together to talk over our problems. But we find we really don't have problems. Of course, our children can do some things well and can't do some others. But we find they adjust so well and get along so well that we really don't have anything to complain about—we do have much to be thankful for—we just don't have problems."

When the Little People went to Golden Lanes for their fun session, they took over half of the lanes and proceeded to have a time that must surely have resembled Rip Van Winkle's experience with the diminutive bowlers on the

forced in, drops down, and the dial tone may be heard. Then the dial-finger tip is quickly inserted and the dialing done by push-pulling on the handle. You wouldn't have suspected that using a pay-phone could be so complicated, would you?

The extension handle also is useful for poking buttons in self-service elevators. This was fine with the old elevators—but some of the newer ones react to warmth of the finger, rather than the push itself. So in this case, the Little Person holds the aluminum dialing tip of the handle to his mouth and blows his breath on it until he has warmed it enough to make the button work. He grins as he tells you, to signify that "you can do anything, once you know how!"

By now, you understand that "living little" requires a bag of tricks up the sleeve; also that LPs appreciate help. They were especially pleased at the table, 28 inches high, which caterer John Foster had rigged for their food at their buffet dinner. When Joe Alexander asked: "Did you ever try to ladle gravy from a dish at eye level and two feet back from the table's edge?" it became apparent that a low serving table is necessary.

But it was when I offered to hang a coat for a Little Lady at the clubhouse that I first caught on. That gal couldn't have reached the closet hanger-rod if she'd been on stilts. As the guests arrived, I found I had a steady job, hanging miniature coats on a very high rod. And when I took pictures, I took them from knee-level. After the evening was over, I almost felt like I belonged to the



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Seattle Pacific Alumni Magazine  
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Frieda Groeneveld '63 Bud Hansen '50



1963

Rev. Thomas Fairgrieve became pastor of the First Baptist Church of Eastgate in Bellevue, Washington, in February. He was previously assistant minister of Calvary Baptist Church in Everett.

Frieda Groeneveld, who has taught kindergarten at Central Avenue School in Tacoma, Washington, for two years, was crowned National Queen for the Little People of America, Inc., in July 1967 at the organization's annual convention in Hollywood, California. Frieda sees the organization as a means of exchanging ideas about how to make everyday living more convenient, promoting educational and employment opportunities for the Little People, assisting in medical research on growth patterns, and making new friends. Instead of being a problem, she feels that her height is in many ways an advantage in her position as a kindergarten teacher.

Carol Sundberg represented SPC at the inauguration of the new president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, in January. Carol is on the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ.

1962



Gathering - August 1968

- Poulsbo, Wash.

Hosting  
- The Kuhlman's



L-R: Art Gehrman; Linda Berg; Ferne Vining;  
Barbara Corbin; Richard McLeod  
Frieda Groeneveld; Hank Kuhlman  
Sid Carter; Kayla Kuhlman



# Little People View New Horizons

*Those who are of lesser height are gaining a new perspective on their lives.*

By GRACE STREET

Spokesman-Review Staff Writer

WHAT WOULD YOU DO if you stepped inside an automatic elevator, the doors closed behind you and you couldn't reach the button for the floor you wished or even the one for opening the door?

How would you manage to get a drink of water from a bubbling drinking fountain when you were thirsty, and it was at least six or so inches above your head?

How would you get a cup of coffee from a vending machine when the money slot was out of your reach, even if you stood on your tiptoes?

ANSWERS TO THESE problems and many others will be discussed by little people at the district meeting of the Little People of America in Goldendale, Wash., next Saturday and Sunday.

Little People, meaning those who are under four feet ten inches in height, will be gathering for fellowship and to discuss any problems they might encounter in the business of living, raising a family, buying a pair of shoes or altering some clothing.

To some who will attend, it will be the first time they ever have been in a group they can meet "eye to eye." To others it will mean a renewal of friendship with an acquaintance they met at another district session, or at a national convention, or perhaps through correspondence.

District 11, in an association of 12 districts over the United States, includes little people in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska. The Goldendale meeting is one of two held each year in the district. The 12 districts meet each July in a national convention of Little People of America, which will be held this year in Baltimore, Md.

The meeting in Goldendale will be held, in part, in the home of the district director, George Joe Alexander, a school teacher in the Goldendale school system, and his wife Martha.

PRESENT MEMBERSHIP in District 11 is 66 persons of all ages, Alexander said, but there still are many who do not know of the organization.

The Little People of America, with the motto "Think Big," was organized at a meeting in Reno, Nev., in April 1957. Billy Barty, an actor, who is less than four feet tall, was organizer and first president.

Billy was appearing at the Riverside Hotel in Reno with the late Spike Jones, when it was suggested by a public relations director of the hotel that Billy get a group of little people together at the hotel. Billy liked the idea and, since Reno was known as the Biggest Little City in the World, what could be a more appropriate site?

The Riverside Hotel donated the rooms and gave all the little people who attended that first meeting half price rates on food. Through the aid of the public relations director, who was Nick Bourne, all news media were notified.

x

THE FIRST NATIONAL convention was held with 21 little people from nine states attending. By 1959, the mailing list included 200 members. Now there are approximately 1500 to 2000 members with a potential of several hundred more.

Billy Barty, who lives in Hollywood, was chairman of the last national convention, held in Los Angeles last July. A record number of 303 little people attended.

The purpose of the national organization is to aid in the development of personality and character and to promote the education of little people for acceptance in normal society.

Membership includes persons of all ages. Problems of parents with a child destined to be a "little person" are one of the main concerns of the organization, so there is an Auxiliary of Parents. Children who are expected to grow less than four feet ten inches in height are in a group called "Little Littles." There is also a teen-aged group.

THE ORGANIZATION also assists in the adoption of "little" children by little couples. A scholarship program is another current project.

Members have participated in studies on the problem of growth in the research of selected congenital malformations and hereditary conditions for the division of Medical Genetics in the Department of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Membership also includes several other categories. Chief among these is the achondroplastic dwarf, those little persons who have a normal sized body but a larger head and very short arms and legs. This type of person has more of a problem with clothing, furniture and alterations, Alexander said.

"Some who are just a little short with normal proportions may be able to purchase small sized clothing, but a dwarf usually can't find any to fit," Alexander added.

ONE OF THE PROJECTS of District 11, under the leadership of Alexander, is a member's handbook, containing a helpful hints section of ideas for any little person. The district will compile the booklet to include ideas from members throughout the nation.

Alexander, who is just over four feet tall, and his wife, Martha, a few inches shorter, recently moved into a new home. Before they moved they had a false floor, eight inches above the regular floor, installed in their kitchen. This brings the customary kitchen cabinets and sink height of 36 inches down to their level of 28 inches. In addition to this, they lowered the counter for the bathroom basin and all the clothes rods. They use stock units of laundry equipment which have front openings.

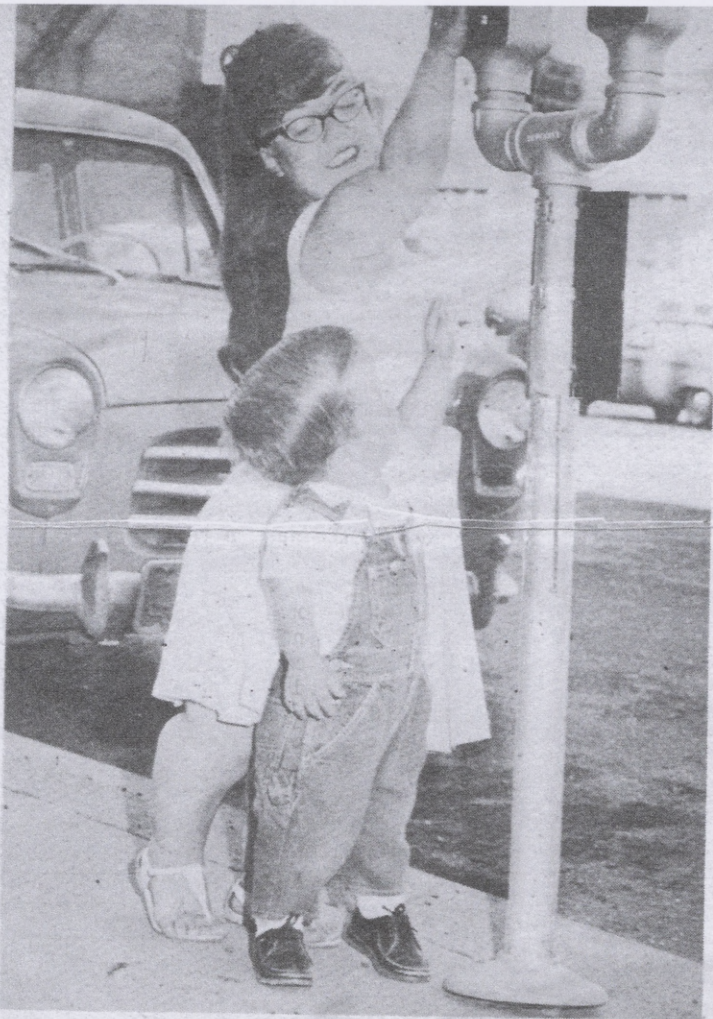
The couple has two children, a girl, six years old, and a boy, 2½. "Both are growing up to be normal sized," Alexander said. "So it's doubly important that we each teach discipline from the very beginning."

Some of the couples in the Little People organization have normal sized youngsters, who at ages 10 or 11 years, tower over their parents. Others have "little" children, much like themselves. One couple in Portland has a normal sized little boy, although their second



Little Doyle Harris, who is just three feet and one-half inch in height, finds it quite a reach to open the door at school. Doyle, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Harris, Pullman, Wash., is a second grader and a member of the "Little Littles" group in the Little People of America.





Above: Mrs. Judy Howard, Great Falls, Mont., and son Darin find the parking meters in downtown Great Falls a bit high. She is three feet 10 inches tall. (Great Falls Leader photo). Below: Robert Hubof, senior at Post Falls, Idaho, High School, drives the family auto which is equipped with special extensions.



youngster is destined to be a dwarf. As yet medical science doesn't know the answer to such a situation.

ALEXANDER HAS PLANNED a busy session in Goldendale. With the assistance of Mrs. Adeline Malecki, another member living in Goldendale, he has scheduled a parents auxiliary luncheon meeting Saturday at a local restaurant. "This will be the first regular meeting of the parents and should be a helpful one," he said.

Chapter organizational meetings will be held Saturday afternoon at the Alexander home, with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Vining, Kelso, Wash., and Miss Frieda Groeneveld, a Tacoma, Wash., kindergarten teacher, as leaders.

Chapters are being planned for Seattle-Tacoma, Portland, Spokane and other areas where eight or more little persons live.

All little people attending Saturday afternoon will take part in a bowling tournament, he said. "Regardless of our scores, we can have fun in participation," Alexander said.

A dinner meeting, followed by entertainment and a movie, will complete the day. A Sunday morning coffee will conclude the district session.

Miss Groeneveld, who is three feet 11 inches tall and a kindergarten teacher in the Franklin-Pierce School District, meets her students "eye to eye." She has been secretary of District 11 for several years and has edited a bi-monthly newsletter for the group. Prior to her kindergarten teaching, she taught first grade at Darrington, Wash.

Frieda drives a little auto equipped with extensions, and lives in a trailer southeast of Tacoma, complete with a false floor which puts all the windows and other equipment on her level. She attends each of the national conventions, frequently driving her auto all the way, she said.

After attending a national convention two years ago in Texas, she said, "for some of us it was a shock to see ourselves as others see us. But this feeling was replaced with a wonderful social feeling. We all have many friends among the tall people—but when we meet someone just like ourselves, it's different."

JUDY HOWARD, a member who lives in Great Falls, Mont., finds a high stool plays a big part in her life. She is three feet and 10 inches in height and the mother of a son five years old. She cooks and does her dishes from a stool in her Great Falls apartment. All her furnishings are regular size.

To get clothing out of a washing machine she uses a pair of tongs. If she reaches in head first, she feels she might fall in. She has a continuous spring on her draw draperies. If she didn't, she said, she would pull one end, and find the other end up to the ceiling next time she wanted it.

Mrs. Howard, who has played rhythm guitar with dance bands, alters readymade clothing to fit her short arms and legs. She wears children's shoes but sometimes gets her heels from a specialized shoe firm. She and her son, Darin, who can expect the same problems as she as he grows older, carry a folding cup with them so they can get a drink of water at a fountain.

ROBERT W. HUBOF, a Post Falls, Idaho, high school senior and son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hubof, Post Falls, is a teen-aged member and teen chairman for District 11. He has plans to attend college, beginning at North Idaho Junior College in Coeur d'Alene, and then on to the University of Idaho, majoring perhaps in accounting.

For the past two summers, Bob has helped with his school expenses by mowing lawns around the Post Falls area. The first year he purchased his own "riding" mower equipped with pedal extensions. He also can drive the family auto which is equipped with a set of extensions manufactured by Bob East in his machine shop in Oakland, Calif. These extensions allow a taller person to drive without their removal. East, who is also a little person, has perfected a number of such extensions.

Bob also plays cornet in the Post Falls High School marching band and has marched with the music group in Spokane's Lilac Parade.

ONE OF THE Little Littles in District 11 is Doyle Harris, who is eight years old and attends second grade in Jefferson School in Pullman, Wash. He stands 36½ inches tall and weighs in at 36 pounds.

Doyle has a desire to play basketball. So his dad, Edward E. Harris, is in the process of making him an adjustable basket. The basket will remain at "low altitude" until Doyle has perfected his shooting, then gradually will be raised to normal height. The ball is too heavy, but he refuses to use a lighter one. He wants to compete "like the others."

He also is learning to play the piano with extensions on the instrument's pedals. His parents have provided little stools for him to use at the school drinking fountains. But Doyle finds it easier and faster to shinny up the fountain to get a drink.

Little people may be able to live with their home environment without attention, but problems multiply away from home.

They cannot walk down the street in a strange place without being noticed by the curious. Hotel rooms and motels are not convenient for the little person when he finds he sees only the top of his head in the only mirror in the room.

The electric shaver outlet is out of reach and he will have to forego a shower, because faucet handles and the shower nozzle are no less than five and one half feet from the floor.

THESE ARE JUST a few problems for which the organization's members have found the answers.

"Humor helps in many instances," Miss Groeneveld said, "even to asking someone in a grocery store to hand you a package of cereal from a shelf, explaining that you are short on one end."

Little people have found it pays to carry a long pencil or pen in a pocket for elevator buttons and a folding drinking cup for high fountains. As for vending machines with high slots, you either carry a pincer type of rig in your pocket for the money slot or you do without the coffee—unless some kind person is nearby. (The end.)



# Sense Of Humor Helps 'Little People' Rise Above

By JEAN HENNIGER

Women's Editor, The Oregonian

How would you like, as an intelligent, self-sufficient adult, to try to get a drink of water at one of Mr. Benson's handsome bubblers, but find yourself too short to reach the water?

What if you entered an elevator, the doors closed behind you, and you couldn't reach the control buttons?

What if you were grocery shopping, and, in attempting to get a quart of ice cream, fell in the freezer chest?

If you were like most of the "little people," you'd find some solution, and in the latter case likely tell your rescuer, "Well, that's one way to cool off."

For some reason, most persons of extremely small stature have a good sense of humor, once they've conquered shyness.

They get accustomed to being looked at twice on the street, and, if they've experienced some understanding as they grew up, handle themselves and their lives with dignity, often laced with sly amusement.

Even so, inside, a reserve remains which may find the dwarf or midget uncomfortable socially in a lot of situations.

Some prefer never to associate with others of similar stature; some, on the other hand, cling to family and close associates, choosing to try to ignore the whole matter.

According to George "Joe" Alexander, director of district 11 of the Little People of America, Inc., who stands just over four feet tall, it is often difficult for a small person to meet with others who are little for the first time.

They have become adept in living in the "big world" and don't care to admit, even to themselves, that they are different.

## Meetings Important

Yet, he feels, there is much to be accomplished by such meetings as was held in Philomath and Corvallis last weekend. Nearly 60 people came.

If nothing else, it helps normal-sized parents who find themselves with a "little little," a child born to them destined to grow only so big, but eager to make life as pleasant and rewarding as possible for that child.

But other little people, even though they have made remarkable achievements and adjustments, need to exchange ideas and solutions, offer inspiration and provide fellowship.

It was for these reasons the organization was formed in 1957 by Billy Barty, TV and movie personality. The first national convention was held in 1960 in Las Vegas, with some 100 in attendance.

They divided the country up into 12 districts, with Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho and Alaska designated as number 11.

At first there was some hesitancy about publicizing meetings. They had no desire to be exploited or attract sensation-seekers.

But there is growing feeling that the organization can stand the spotlight, largely to let interested people know of its existence.

There is even no careful count just how many people in the United States are either hypophysial (well-proportioned but small) or achondroplastic (normal in body size, but short limbed.)

Nationally, the little people have a mailing list of some 2,000 members, but there are thought to be nearly 7,000 possibilities of all ages.

## Cause Suggested

The "sporadic" cases of achondroplasia, where there is no family history of dwarfism but normal-sized parents have a dwarf baby, are now said to be attributed to new mutations in the normal gene structure, perhaps caused by a virus.

These parents, particularly, need to know of the organization, being faced with circumstances for which they've no preparation.

Besides sociability, the meetings include discussion groups on such matters as clothing (shoes are a big problem), education and jobs, emotions and personality, marriage and dating.

Not the least significant are the health problems — special susceptibilities. Because of abnormal ball and socket arrangement at joints, arthritis is a fairly common problem.

The early hardening of cartilage that produces insufficient long growth of bones also sometimes causes hardening of cartilage in the nasal and ear canals, presenting problems with colds and adenoids, ear infections.

Due to protrusion of stomach there is often pressure on other major organs — lungs and heart. Respiratory difficulties are fairly frequent.

At the recent meeting in Oregon, there was some such discussion, but the activity was largely social, with a banquet and dance held at the St. Mary's church social hall.

## Handbook Edited

Joe Alexander, who had attended the national convention, reported progress on the handbook he's editing. First of its kind, it is a compilation of hints and helps which will be distributed nationally to members, when financing can be worked out.

Alexander organized another district meeting in April in his home town, Goldendale, Wash., where he has been with the county school system for seven years.

A popular and active worker in the community, he received the Golden Acorn award for outstanding achievement in education, and while he minimizes his efforts, is the acknowledged leader of little people in the Northwest.

point, so those involved are inclined to make the best of their situation.

They've found ways: cars have extensions for short legs, little people carry folding drinking cups for high

fountains, pencils or something to reach to push elevator buttons, pincer arrangements to put money into vending machines or parking meters.

And if all else fails, humor helps.

## Corevalis - '68



**LITTLE PEOPLE** from Northwest District covering five states gathered in Corvallis for two days of conferences, get-togethers and programs. Pictured at a Saturday banquet, prepared and served by Valley No. 1974 Catholic Daughters of America, are (from left) Mr. and Mrs. Larry Carr of Portland, Penny Pemble of Seattle, Wash. and Dr. Charles Scott of John's Hopkins Medical School. Joe Alexander, northwest district director, showed final draft of a Little People's of America handbook, which contains helpful information. Also, a bid for having Little People's national convention in Oregon during summer, 1970, was voted.



*In Remembrance*

GRACE H. (MCGHEE) STREET

August 27, 1918    November 23, 1968

*Funeral Services*  
Tuesday, November 26, 1968    1:00 P.M.  
Alwin Chapel

*Officiant*  
The Reverend John G. Chatalas

*Soloist*  
Mr. E. L. Harbold  
"Beyond the Sunset"  
"In the Garden"

*Organist*  
Eleanor Dittrich

*Burial Services*  
Fairmount Memorial Park

*Casket Bearers*

Richard E. Laws    John d'Urbal  
Alvin D. Dahman    Raymond L. Hanson  
Homer F. Babbitt    John Jacobs

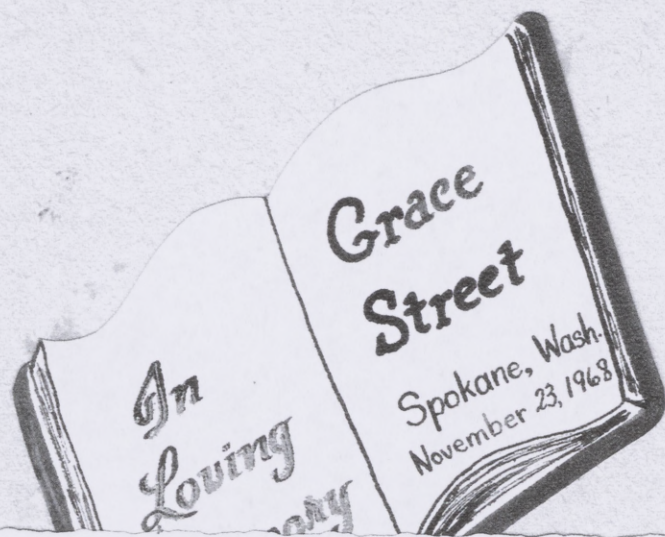
*Honorary Bearers*

A. A. Feyerabend    Frank C. Ferguson  
Herbert T. McGhee    Charles H. Adkins  
Joseph R. Hopper    William E. Bailey  
Robert A. Beck    Otto C. Greenwood  
Cecil Johnson    Seabury M. Blair  
Harold E. Stewart    Kenneth H. Crippen  
Wayne H. Tefft    Jack E. Roberts

*The family of  
Grace H. Street*

*gratefully acknowledges your kind  
expression of sympathy*

*Henry R. Street*





**District**

*April 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>*

*Pullman, Wash.*

*Hosting - Doyle Harris & Family*

**12<sup>th</sup> National**

*July 28 - Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>*

*Minneapolis, Minn.*

*Hosting - District*

**District**

*"Wildly enthusiastic Meet"*

*October 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>*

*Olympia, Wash.*

*Hosting - B. Corbin & F. Groeneveld*



## Outstanding Mrs. Elisabeth Reckendorf Divides Her Time Between Career, Home And Little People Of America

**Editor's Note:** This is the second in a series of three articles about local women chosen "Outstanding Young Women Of America" for 1968.

Mrs. Frank (Elisabeth) Reckendorf combines her home economics skills both in her own household and as an instructor in home management at Oregon State University.

Her master's degree, which she earned from Oregon State in 1967, complements her bachelor's degree earned at Iowa State in 1958. Her special area of interest is family life and home management and she teaches a course in personal and family finance each term. She also conducts a graduate seminar during one term of the year and has taught courses through the Division of Continuing Education. Occasionally she speaks to groups on the subject of family finance.

Her concern for students doesn't stop there, however. When she and her husband first came to Oregon State, they were the head residents at The Pines, a girls' cooperative house, and as a result were involved with counseling girls about both academic and personal problems.

Mrs. Reckendorf is a member of the American Home Economics Association and her orientation towards home economics and her concern for people has given her an added interest in consumer protection legislation, a subject she plans more work with in the future.

Other of her activities have included the Soils Wives Club on campus (her husband, Frank, is completing his Ph.D. in soils and currently works in Salem with the Soil Conservation Service) and the March of Dimes. She was Mothers March chairman last year and has worked on publicity for the organization for two years.

Lisa's work with the March of Dimes stems from her interest in birth defects, as does her considerable in-

volvement with the Little People of America, an organization of "little people," (dwarfs and midgets).

### Northwest Chairmen

Both Mr. and Mrs. Reckendorf are auxiliary chairmen for the Northwest Chapter of Little People of America. They have been deeply involved with the group since the summer of 1966 when their first child, Peter, was born.

They later adopted a

daughter, Karel, also a "little person." She is a year and a half old and has been with the Reckendorfs for the past six months.

Through the Little People of America, the Reckendorfs have benefitted from friendship with other normal parents of "little people" and from knowing both young and old midgets and dwarfs.

Some contact is direct, but much of it is also by mail. There is a national directory

for the organization, as well as communication between chapters.

Mrs. Reckendorf has attended one national meeting of the organization and is hoping that the national meeting for 1970 will be held in Seattle so that she can attend.

For both the Reckendorfs, the little people are very important. On vacations, they try to visit little people in the area and when they meet little people who do not know about the organization, they

put them in touch with both the organization and other little people in the area.

Mrs. Reckendorf frankly admits that without her husband's help, she could never carry on both her teaching and homemaking activities as well as she does. Her housekeeper, who takes care of the two children while she is on campus, also is an invaluable aid to her.

And when she has spare time, Lisa fills it with skiing, swimming, sewing and reading.



A BICYCLE is Lisa Reckendorf's transportation to and from the Oregon State University campus. She teaches one class in personal and family finance in the School of Home Economics. She often takes her children for rides on her bicycle, too, although generally one at a time. Here she prepared to take advantage of some February sunshine with Peter, in front, and Karel, strapped on the back.





LITTLE PEOPLE take time out for fun during their Annual Region II convention at Pullman recently. Just before a tour of the Washington State University the midgets try their skills at the Compton Union Building bowling alley. Waiting for more to arrive, several others gather around a piano at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Harris, 309 Sunset. Fifty-one little people from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska attending the meeting to discuss adjusting to their height. "We never want big people to adjust to us, we want to adjust to them," they said.

## Pullman District Meeting

April 5-6, 1969



**LITTLE PEOPLE BOWL** — Doyle Harris, 9, 3 foot 6 inch son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Harris, Pullman, demonstrated his bowling skill Saturday during a two-day Little People of America District meeting at Pullman. Mr. and Mrs. Harris were hosts to 51 members of the organization, whose height averages 3 feet 10 inches. Delegates from six western states and Canada attended.



L-R Grant Lindholm, Darin Lee  
at piano - Jill Ronning, Judy Lee





11th L.P.A. National Convention Minneapolis, Minn. 1969

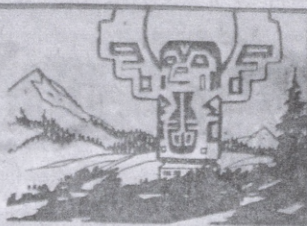






DON DUNCAN:

- Voice of Mini-America
- A Minority That Adjusts



William Albaugh obviously had delivered the line a thousand times. But it still had a bittersweet quality.

"No matter if I had a million dollars, I'd still be a little short."

Albaugh laughed. He is 4 feet 7 inches tall. That is rather large for a midget. His wife stands 3-11.

As national public-relations director of Little People of America, Inc. (founded in 1957) Albaugh is able to discuss the subject of dwarfism with more facts than emotion.

FOR 20 YEARS, Albaugh has earned a good living as "Little Squirt," the living trademark of a soft-drink manufacturer. He is proof that "little people" can adjust to the normal world, that they needn't be taught to sing, tap dance or play instruments "so they can be marketed as sideshow freaks."

"It used to be that you saw a midget and you started looking around for the camels and the calliope," Albaugh said.

A strong emphasis on education is changing all that. "Little people" now are working as television directors, chemists, civil servants, computer technicians and in "almost any profession you can name."

Albaugh added:

Our philosophy is, 'If you don't have it from the knees down, you'd better have it from the shoulders up.'

The "little person" faces contradictions almost from the start. He becomes the butt of jokes, because of his size, and must develop a sense of humor. Yet he is overprotected physically and he must guard against relying on others whenever the going gets tough.

THERE ARE 40 types of dwarfism and most kinds are represented among the 3,000 or so members of Little People of America, Inc. Albaugh technically is a pituitary dwarf, but would be called a "midget" because his body is proportioned, on a small scale, much like that of a normal-sized man. Persons referred to as "dwarfs" generally have heads that seem overly large for their bodies and arms that seem too short.

Through newsletters and annual national conventions (Tumwater's Tyee Motel will be the site in July, 1970) the "little people" learn about medical advances in treating youngsters with growth-hormone problems, how to adopt dwarf children and the latest inventions on the market to enable "little people" to cope with a giant world.

"We get no self-support, no grants from the government," Albaugh says. "We are one minority that believes in adjusting to the world, not having the world adjust to us. We don't want pity. We don't want to be discriminated against either."

Adjustment isn't always easy. Automobiles are too big, and drinking fountains,



Don Duncan (5-10) felt big alongside Bill Albaugh (4-7).

elevator buttons, hotel mirrors, coat hangers, light switches and cupboards invariably are "too high."

"Many people have the notion we live in little doll houses with little furniture," Albaugh said. "That is absolutely untrue for 99 per cent of us. We live in a world of normal-sized people. They are our friends. We can't expect them to come to our homes and sit in doll-sized chairs."

ALBAUGH BEGAN adjusting early in life. He grew up in a small Midwestern town, with four normal-sized brothers and one normal-sized sister. The chances of a "little person" being born is estimated at roughly one in 10,000. "Little Bill Albaugh" was the one. He was liked and known by all the townsfolk and was allowed to play baseball and football with his bigger buddies, "although I think they eased up on the tackling a little."

It was not until he went to high school and his best friends began dating girls that Albaugh suddenly felt very left out.

"Oh, how I wanted to go to dances," Albaugh said. "I knew some girls would go with me because we had known each other all our lives. But I didn't want to embarrass them by asking."

Later in life, Albaugh had an English friend who was a "giant" — a victim of too much growth hormone. And the giant told him, "Bill, at least you can get lost in the crowd, but I can't. I sit in a bar and invariably some drunk wants to challenge me to a fight to prove how brave he is."

the field for each game — wearing his midget-sized football uniform.

NOW 42, Albaugh resides at 2928 N. W. 46th St., Tamarac Lake South, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. We give the full address in case you know some "little person" who might want to write to him.

Albaugh's public-relations work takes him around the country, sometimes flying and occasionally driving, with his wife as his companion. He carries magnesium and aluminum extension gadgets to permit him to modify rental automobiles for his use.

"Then I make sure I'm staying in a town with

enough telephone book to put under me on the car seat," Albaugh said. "Seattle's is just about right."

Albaugh is particularly pleased by a so-called "magic wand" developed for "little people." The invention — a wand that can be extended by a spring mechanism — enables small persons to push elevator buttons, hang up coats and even insert a coin in a pay toilet.

"It's only a handicap if you let it be one," Albaugh said.

And after one talks with him for awhile, he seems at least 6-feet tall.

## THE LITTLE SQUIRT'S HERE

# 'Little People' Ready For Olympia Session

Most people take such everyday conveniences as public telephones and drinking fountains for granted. But not William Albaugh and his wife, Marie.

Albaugh, who is only 4 feet 7, with his wife, who is a mere 3 feet 7, travels throughout the country in his dual capacity as "Little Squirt," the living symbol of the Squirt beverage company; and a public relations officer for the Little People of America, Inc.

The organization, composed of persons who are under 4 feet 10, will hold its annual Northwest regional convention in Olympia this weekend. Albaugh arrived in Tacoma on a promotional tour for Squirt just in time to make the convention.

"The primary purpose of the Little People of America is education," he stated. "We try

to stress the value of formal education to our members and at the same time educate the public to our capabilities, rather than our obvious differences."

## Professional Jobs

More than 90 per cent of the organization's members hold professional positions, he noted.

Still, Albaugh conceded, midgets and dwarfs face the constant problem of discrimination. "When we look for a job, we start out with two strikes against us because of our size," he said. "Usually, our members work extra hard in an attempt to compensate for their lack of height."

Albaugh, who is in Tacoma for Glaser Bros. Beverages, has been a public relations man with Squirt for the past 20 years.

Dwarfs constantly are faced with living in a world built for bigger people. As well as the common problems of elevator buttons, pay telephones, restroom towels and automobiles generally being too big or too high for them, there are other simple inconveniences such as having to buy specially made clothing and shoes.

## Adjust to World

"But we're a minority. We don't want the world to adjust to us. We know we have to adjust to it," said Albaugh.

The Little People of America helps individuals adjust to the problems of being a little person in a big person's world. Just socializing with other persons facing the same problems makes the outlook a little brighter, said Albaugh.

Albaugh may be a professional public relations man, but his tiny temper rises when he thinks of the way many people address little persons in a condescending tone.

"When are people going to realize that size has nothing to do with being an adult?" he asked. "Just because we're small doesn't mean we have a child's mentality."

"Sure, we have special problems of discrimination, just like Negroes," Albaugh stated, "but with education a lot of that will disappear. The smarter we get, the less animosity we bear."

## District Session Of Little People Set at Olympia

Some 50 people are expected to attend the District 11 convention of the Little People of America Friday through Sunday at Tyee Motor Inn, Olympia.

Persons under 4-feet-10 interested in attending should contact Barbara Corbin, of 1225 S. 121st St.

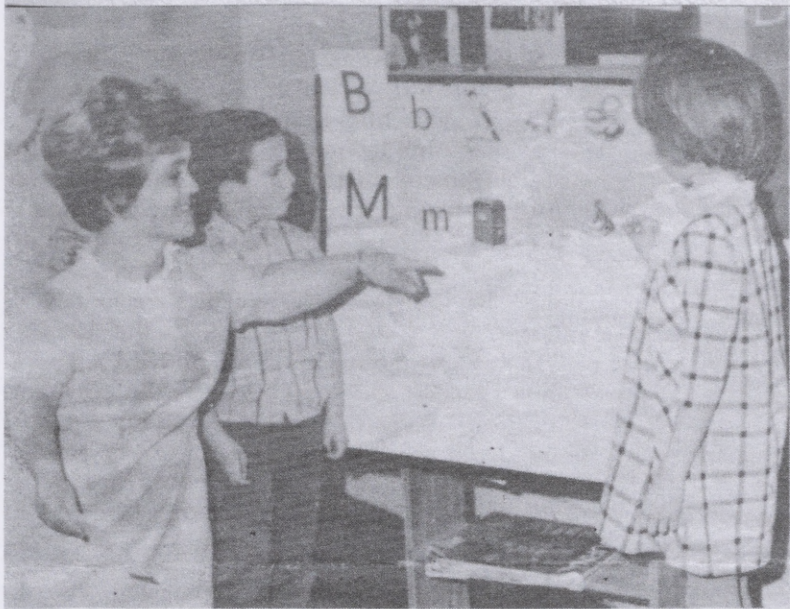
Plans will be made for next July's national convention which will be held at Tyee.

District 11 includes Oregon, Alaska, Montana, Idaho and Washington.



WILLIAM AND MARIE ALBAUGH  
'Little Squirt' and Wife are in Big World.





Frieda Groeneveld with her first graders at Central Avenue School.  
—photos from Franklin Pierce S.D.



## Little teacher makes big hit

Although she's not much bigger than some of her first grade pupils at Central Avenue School in the Franklin Pierce School District, (south of Tacoma), Frieda Groeneveld, 3 feet 11 inches tall, goes over big with her students and fellow teachers.

Miss Groeneveld is not embarrassed by questions about her size, which kindergarten or first grade students might ask when they first meet her.

"How come you're so little?" a student might ask.

"This is the way I'm supposed to be," Frieda answers, which satisfies almost every student.

"Physical height isn't important," Miss Groeneveld explains. "The students' respect for the teacher is what counts most. Because I'm on the same level with my kindergarten and first grade children, we establish closer contact and better communication."

Her students are eager to help her with any chores, such as putting window shades up and down, or opening and closing classroom windows.

Carl Coltom, Miss Groeneveld's principal at Central Avenue, says Miss Groeneveld maintains a wonderful rapport with her pupils and their parents.

"She was a great kindergarten teacher, and

she's doing a fine job in the first grade this year," Coltom commented. "Frieda's fame has spread in the neighborhood. Many kindergarteners and their parents were disappointed this year, not to find Miss Groeneveld teaching in her usual class."

Miss Groeneveld is membership chairman for District 11 (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and Alaska) of the Little People of America, Inc. (LPA), a "think big organization" of nearly 2,000 small folk from all over the United States. (There are an estimated 17,000 undersized adults and children in this country).

She was the district's secretary before assuming her present post. The LPA's District 11 boasts 118 members, who will host the Little People's national convention next July in Tumwater.

She deems her friends her greatest asset in life, believing many of her accomplishments would otherwise have been impossible. She depends upon friends for tasks most of us take for granted — dialing a phone in a pay booth, getting things off the top shelf, retrieving laundry from the depths of a washer or dryer.

"The Little People organization helps members gain needed perspective to accept their lives as they are and to pursue such worthwhile

goals as better education, the development of superior personality and the pursuit of a useful, productive life," she believes.

In her day-to-day associations with students, fellow teachers and all who know her, Frieda Groeneveld proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that little people needn't live alone in a little world.

Miss Groeneveld was born and raised in Darrington, went to Everett High School and was graduated from Seattle Pacific College in 1963 with a BA in language arts education. The 28-year-old, petite blonde taught in Darrington before Central Avenue, where she taught three years of kindergarten before assuming her present position.

When not busy teaching, Miss Groeneveld is teaching a catechism class and working in youth programs. She has been active in Camp Fire Girls and counts sewing as her favorite hobby. She uses a portable machine set on a low table, making her own clothes and patterns.

She delights in the riot of expressions displayed by onlookers when she alights from her crimson Volkswagen, which features specially elevated pedals for her driving convenience.





LITTLE PEOPLE CAN OVERCOME MOST DIFFICULTIES  
... Linda Berg drives full-sized car with aid of extended pedals



TEACHER ONLY INCHES TALLER THAN  
... Miss Berg tells them she's made of the same stuff

For The Brave Little People Of The World

## Life Is A Long, Tough

By SUZANNE ZWARUN  
(Herald Staff Writer)

CLARESHOLM — The kindergarten teacher is only three inches taller than the five-year-old children she teaches.

But she's made of "the same stuff you are," Linda Berg tells her curious charges.

With one difference. While

children move up rapidly on the I am Growing poster in the hall, Miss Berg slides in under the four foot mark, and she'll stay at three feet eleven for the rest of her life.

Twenty-one-year old Miss Berg is one of the little people — an achondroplastic dwarf. And little people have more problems than the rest of the world.

Thirst can't be slaked if the only water handy is in a public water fountain. Little people can't reach.

Elevators have to be approached with caution. Little people have had elevator doors close on them, only to

discover they can't reach the controls.

Grocery shopping is fraught with peril. In the process of reaching into the freezer chest, little people have fallen in.

Not that Miss Berg would exchange being a little person for being normal-sized.

She has been a member of the U.S. little people's club for four years and has joined the little People of Canada, a 50-member organization started by a Toronto man in 1965.

So far as she knows, there are only two members of the Canadian club in Alberta. The organization would like more — and Miss Berg is sure little people would enjoy belonging.

She, herself, never saw another little person until she was 17 and attended a U.S. meeting of the club.

She "sat and stared" at the thousands of dwarfs.

"I remember thinking — do I look like that?"

But her association with the club has taught her "to laugh at myself" when things become difficult. It's also given her hints on how to get along in an outsized world.

Lately, she has acquired some of the devices manufactured for little people.

Her purse is full of the contraptions. A three-cornered stool folds up flatter than a package of cigarettes.

Unfolded, it gives little people another four inches of reaching room. A long silver wand with a hook on it will grab things off high shelves. Add a rubber button to the wand and you can press elevator buttons. Another attachment is for phone booths — it inserts dimes, dials numbers.

Miss Berg laughs about the time she and a girl friend no taller found frozen orange juice on sale. Unfortunately it was in a deep freezer. Out came the wands and the laborious process of hooking the tab of each can into the wand's hook began. And continued — a painstaking cast to reel in each of 10 cans of juice. Hours, it took.

Or picture four little people entering an elevator, all reaching frantically for their wands, all extending them full length, all screwing the rubber knob on the tip. Meanwhile, the elevator has taken off for an unwanted floor. It's happened to Miss Berg.

Clothes are a problem and most little people, like Miss Berg, become expert seamstresses. She buys shoes — size 1 — in the children's department; high heels come from a U.S. firm.

Little people who recline in bathtubs could drown — so there's a back rest to prevent that. Showers need a special nozzle, otherwise all the water lands on top of a little person's head. Washing machines are difficult, but long handled tongs can help retrieve clothes.

She studied at the University of Calgary before taking over the kindergarten. Practice teaching in Grades 1 to 6 convinced her kindergarten was her "thing."

"The Grade 6 children towered over me."

The kindergarten children are curious about her size. But once the situation is explained, they accept it. Even the little girl who asked of what she was made.

Miss Berg can do almost anything, she says. She drives a full-sized car with the aid of extended pedals.

the crowd.

But feeling of the crowd with little people, members are anywhere in Alberta. Contact Miss Berg delivery, Clara.

No one over inches need a



# District

April 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Hosting - Bob Hubof

# 13<sup>th</sup> National

July 25<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

Portland, Oregon

Hosting - District 11

# District

October 10 & 11<sup>th</sup>

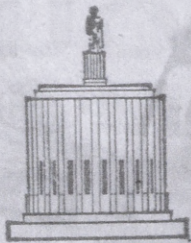
Tacoma, Wash.

Hosting - B. Corbin & J. Groeneveld

1970



# Capital



# Journal

82nd Year No. 15

★ ★

Salem, Oregon, Saturday, January, 17, 1970

60 Pages (6 Sections) Price 10c



## 'Peek a boo, I see you'

Peter and Karel Reckendorf, a pair of "Little Little" people, play hide and seek with mom, Mrs. Frank Reckendorf, at their home in Salem. It's a bit of a tight squeeze, but the youngsters

don't seem to mind. For a story on a 1-in-100,000 couple and their children, see page 17. (Capital Journal Photo by Gerry Lewin).





—News Tribune staff photo by Warren Anderson

## A Home Away From Home Goes Up in Flames

*Legislators and Lobbyists Survey Blazing Tyee Inn*

# NEWS TRIBUNE

87TH YEAR NO. 217 Entered as Second Class Matter at Tacoma, Wash. TACOMA, WASH., TUESDAY, JAN. 27, 1970 F TEN CENTS



## Gaunt Specter Haunts Site of Olympia's Tyee Motor Inn

The Tyee Motor Inn, which burned early Tuesday morning in Tumwater, resembled a bombed out city after flames finally died out. In this view, looking north, all that was left standing of the two-story structure were ceramic tile shower stalls, pipes and

a few other metal fixtures. The entrance way can be seen at the left and remaining bungalows right of center. The north wing is in the background. Fire officials Wednesday said the blaze started in the kitchen area at one of the grills and spread quickly

through the ceiling area. Damage was expected to run into the millions of dollars, they said. No one was injured and all guests registered at the Tyee have been accounted for. Fifty of the 209 units remain habitable, including 39 rooms in the north wing.

built in 19 was left sta the inn wor by Wayne 2



## LEGISLATORS ESCAPE

# Flames Destroy Most Of Plush Olympia Inn

By JOHN BAILEY  
News Tribune Staff Writer

TUMWATER — Fire destroyed a major portion of the Tyee Motor Inn here early today. As far as could immediately be determined there was no loss of life or injury to tenants or employees.

Many lawmakers and lobbyists who live at the Tyee during sessions of the state legislature were driven from the 209-unit motor inn with other tenants as wind fanned the flames, spreading the blaze along two wings and into a third.

Early estimates of the loss were set at some \$3 million.

The blaze apparently started in the kitchen in a main section of the complex and spread through a false ceiling, then raced back through rooms below.

Tumwater Fire Chief E. F. Ridgeway said the space between the building roof and false ceiling served as a chimney to funnel flames along the wings of the complex. He said flames were bursting through the roof of the main section by the time the alarm was sounded about 2:45 a.m.

Telephone operators aroused tenants as long as the lines were working. Employees, police and sheriff's deputies then ran from room to room breaking down doors when they were unable to otherwise awaken the occupants.

Rep. Bill Chatalas, D-Seattle, said he awakened by himself and heard someone "running up and down the halls — knocking on doors."

"I thought 'someone has had too much to drink' but I got up and tried to call the office to complain. The phone was dead — and about that time I smelled smoke and got out of there," Chatalas said.

Two wings of the motor hotel branched off in a "V" to the south of the main section. A third section stretched across the ends of the other two wings. The fire raced along both wings of the "V" then jumped to the end wing as the fire was fanned by a north wind. A corner section of the end wing was still burning more than five hours after the fire started but firemen made no attempt to save it because of the extreme damage.

The north wind, which

forced the flames southward, switched suddenly to the opposite direction and drove the fire back through the burning building, virtually destroying the three major lodging areas and a main portion of the main building where banquet rooms, dining area, cocktail lounges and meeting rooms were located.

A portion of that section remained standing, although smoke damage was extensive. Also saved was a north wing of 39 units, the original section of the motor inn, and an 11-unit cabana section.

Those 50 units were all that remained of 209.

James Swanson, founder and builder, sold the operation in October 1968 but still retains an interest. The Tyee was purchased for \$3.4 million by James Ward and Associates, of Seattle, the present owner. Swanson said the original north wing and the cabana section were built at a cost of \$250,000.

Many of the legislators and other tenants routed from the building escaped wearing only night clothes and blankets and stood shivering in the cold and wind as firemen tried to check the blaze.

Plans for hosting the 1970 National Convention went up in smoke when the Tyee Motor Inn burned on January 27, 1970.

However, arrangements etc... were soon changed and the "Portland Hilton Hotel" rescued the '70 Convention



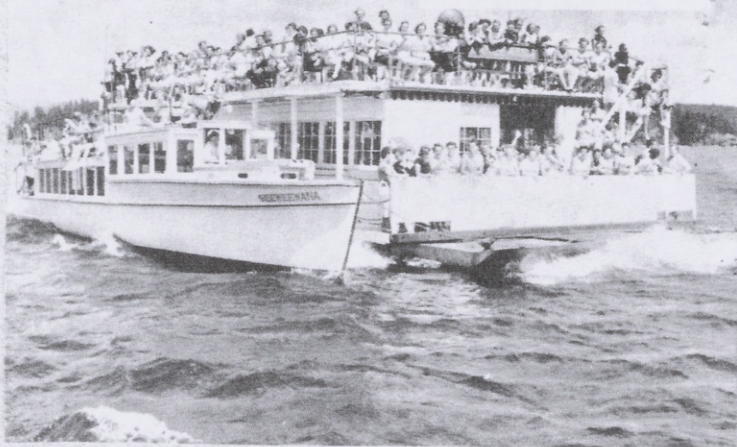
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
April 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>



**'LITTLE PEOPLE' MAKE PLANS**—More than 60 members of District 11 of the "Little People of America" met over the weekend at Smitty's Pancake House to make plans for the national convention slated for July in Portland. Among those present were (from left), Penny Pembie, Seattle, Mrs. Robert E. Lee, Sunburst, Mont., chapter leader of Montana; Bob Hubof, Post Falls, host for the district 11 meet and Teen chairman of the national convention and Miss Frieda Groenweld, Tacoma. Following their theme "Think Big," members heard Paul Ziegele, Coeur d'Alene, speak on "Why I Believe in Democracy" at the afternoon meeting. In the evening the Little People with their husbands, wives and guests had a tour of the lake and dinner on the Dancewana.—Press Photo

#### IDAHO STATE SONG CHORUS

And here we have Idaho,  
Winning her way to fame;  
Silver and gold in the sunlight blaze,  
And romance lies in her name,  
Singing, we're singing of you  
Ah, proudly, too; All our lives thro',  
We'll go singing singing of you,  
Singing of Idaho.



**COEUR D'ALENE LAKE** is noted as one of the five most beautiful Lakes in the world.  
Clear water and good fishing is found in a setting of forest covered hills and mountains in Idaho.  
Some of the finest scenery to photograph and enjoy. One of the best fishing and game areas in Idaho just 32 miles from Spokane. There are 50 motels in and around Coeur d'Alene, and several hotels and trailer courts.



**CAPTAIN JOHN F. FINNEY**—"My business is pleasure!"



# 12<sup>th</sup> National Portland July 25-31<sup>st</sup>

## Nation's Little People Convene in Portland

PORTLAND (AP) — The Little People of America are holding their 12th annual convention in Portland.

The little people are dwarves who meet to socialize and to work out common problems.

Charles Bedow, 36 and 4-foot-6, is president of LPA. He is a sales service supervisor for an insurance company in Minnesota and says job discrimination is a major problem.

"We're still trying to convince employers that just because we're short in stature, we're not short in intelligence."

LPA members come from almost every occupational field

including accountants, lawyers, television repairmen, secretaries, barbers, bankers and plumbers.

"We haven't found a lit doctor yet," says Bedow. "E we're still looking."

Another problem is clothing. Some have their tailor make others shop in children's departments. "The miniskirt box was a big help for our women," said Bedow.

Dwarves live and work in average-size world. "We do live in doll houses or have house full of baby furniture," said George "Joe" Alexander, Goldendale, Wash., convention chairman.

The worst handicap dwarves is social — realizing they look different because they're shorter.

"You don't know what it's like," says Mrs. Sally Bedow, "to always go to school dance and sit on the side because your eyes would meet your partner's kneecap."

LPA conventions always have a dance so "we can dance with people and for the first time look into their eyes."



The 224 people who  
attended the 5 day Convention



← Portland Hilton  
Site of Convention



Charles Pocock —  
our "special guest"  
from England



LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, INC.

12TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION 1970

# WELCOME TO PORTLAND OREGON

PORTLAND HILTON HOTEL

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

7/25/70 Register: Meet Old/New Friends  
6:30 p.m. Miniature Golf Tournament

7/26/70 Register & Church  
2:00 p.m. Board of Directors  
2:00 p.m. Parents' Auxiliary  
2:00 p.m. Teen Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Board of Directors Banquet  
6:30 p.m. Teen Burger Barb. & Pool Party  
9:00 p.m. PreConvention Cocktail Party (adults)

7/27/70 Monday  
1:00 p.m. Tour City of Roses ride Zooliner RR  
4:00 p.m. Talent Show Rehearsal  
4:00 p.m. Parents' Auxiliary  
4:00 p.m. Blitz-Weinhard Brewery Tour (adults)  
8:00 p.m. Talent Show -- Billy Barty MC  
9:00 p.m. Dancing till 1:00 a.m.

7/28/70 Tuesday  
11:00 a.m. Leave hotel for day at the ocean.  
2:00 p.m. East-West Baseball followed by  
Gals vs. Guys Softball???  
6:00 p.m. Gather on beach for Bonfire & Salmon  
Barbeque -- later song fest time.

7/29/70 Wednesday  
1:00 p.m. Bowling Tournament  
1:00 p.m. Little-Littles to Zoo & OMSI  
1:00 p.m. Bingo  
3:30 p.m. Stretch-Knit-Sew Demonstration  
5:00 p.m. Fashion Show Rehearsal  
8:00 p.m. Fashion Show  
9:30 p.m. Dancing till 1:00 a.m.

7/30/70 Thursday  
Free Afternoon  
2:00 p.m. Parents' Auxiliary ??  
2:00 p.m. Teen Meeting ??  
6:30 p.m. Social Hour  
7:30 p.m. XII Annual Banquet & Ball  
10:00 p.m. Dancing till 2:00 a.m.

7/31/70 Friday  
12:00 noon CONVENTION '70 is Over  
farewell till next year...



## WORLD SEAPORT OF THE PACIFIC



70 - Convention Welcome Songs. - District 11

Happy days are here again,  
Us L.P.A.'s have met again;  
To participate in a special way,  
To promote the L.P.A.

Hello District 1

We're glad you got to come  
And hope we get to meet you  
All one by one!

Hi there District 2

We're glad you brought your crew  
A long way across the country  
For all we've planned for you!

Now it's District 3,

We see you're from the East  
Join with us from the West,  
Our happy-go-lucky meet!

Howdy District 4

You've come from the southern shore  
Where cotton grows & hurricanes blow  
We open our welcome door!

Greetings District 5.

We're happy that you've arrived  
From the smoky mountains to Blue  
Grass States,

Hello District 6

For a rhyme we're in a fix,  
But while we're thinkin' we ain't  
forgettin'

To make our Convention so great! That you're from the Land of Lincoln!

There is District 7

We're sure you ain't from heaven  
But we're still glad you've joined the  
fun

Howdy District 8.

We're glad you didn't come late  
Cuz if you did you'd miss the fun  
That we have planned for you!

Cuz it has just begun!

How ya doin' District 9

We hope you're feeling fine  
Cuz if you are we all know  
That you will stay and dine!

Hi there District 10

We know we can be friends  
To be a pal good and true  
The maximum's four foot-ten!

Hello District 12

In a crowd or by yourself  
With you all here, we're all  
complete  
So we will begin our meet!

A special thanks is due

To our foreign ambassadors too  
Australia, Canada, the British Isles  
And other nations too!

Being we're host this year  
We're grateful to our guests  
And we all say with a hearty cheer -  
Welcome to the great northwest!



## Short Talk



LITTLE PEOPLE of America opened their national convention here Monday with gathering of 300 delegates. Mrs. Mary Barta of Longview, Wash., gets sightseeing tips from City Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie, a more than six footer. Mary stands 3 feet 9. (See story page 4.)

July 26, 1970



Fernie Keining

Tues.

## Little People's Convention Stresses Problems Of Average-Size Living

An organization of dwarves opened its 12th annual national convention Monday in the Hilton Hotel.

Charles Bedow, 35-year-old president of Little People of America who is sales service supervisor for an insurance company in Owatonna, Minn., said some 250 dwarves will attend the convention this week.

LPA was organized in 1957, primarily as a social group, but also to give its members a chance to work out common problems.

According to Bedow, who is 4 foot 6, job discrimination is a major problem for dwarves. "We're still trying to convince employers that just because we're short in stature, we're not short in intelligence," he says.

LPA members come from almost every occupational field, including accountants, lawyers, television repairmen, secretaries, barbers, engineers, bankers and plumbers.

"We haven't found a little doctor yet," says Bedow, "but we're still looking."

### Clothes Pose Problems

Another obvious problem for LPA members is clothes. Some have their clothes tailor made, others learn how to shop in children's departments. "The miniskirt boom was a big help for our women," the president said.

Dwarves live and work in an average-size world. "We don't live in doll houses or have a house full of baby furniture," says George "Joe" Alexander of Goldendale, Wash., convention chairman.

In the Alexander home, all of the kitchen appliances are normal size, but the builders installed an eight inch false floor for Mrs. Alexander's convenience. "Otherwise, we could never sell the house," Alexander said.

But the biggest problem that LPA members must overcome is the psychological reality that although they live in an average-size world, often with average-size parents and siblings, they look different because they're shorter than almost everyone else.

LPA offers social contacts which most persons normally get in their teen years, but which many dwarves may not get until they're adults.

### 75 Kinds Of Dwarfism

"You don't know what it's like," says Mrs. Sally Bedow, "to always go to school dances and sit on the side because your eyes would meet your partner's kneecap."

LPA conventions always have a dance so "we can dance with people and for the first time, look into their eyes."

There are about 75 different kinds of dwarfism; all are growth disorders caused by malfunctions of glands or bone structure. (Midget is an unpopular word with dwarves, a

leftover from show business which for many years, was the only area where dwarves could find employment.)

Dwarfism is a gene mutation, which becomes the dominant gene. Average-sized persons, with no family history of dwarves, can have a dwarf child. But that child, especially if he married another dwarf, will probably also have dwarf children.

The LPA convention, which will include a day at the beach, a talent show, fashion show and special meetings for parents, will continue through Friday.



# Little People Convening Here 'Think Big' To Solve Problems, Gain

By DEAN SMITH  
Journal Staff Writer

Little people are thinking big these days — and if you don't believe it, just ask them.

"We are trying to educate the public to the fact that we are basically no different from them," says Paul Jones, vice president of Little People of America, a society whose members are all well under 5 feet tall.

"We are not asking them to do anything but recognize us as normal people."

CHARLES BEDOW, a Minnesotan who has been president of LPA for two years, says the organization is trying to help dwarfs overcome the barriers created by the handicap they have in common.

"The whole gist of our organization," he said, "is to get the little people to accept themselves as they are and to become productive."

LPA is settling down for a week-long convention in Portland which began Monday at the Hilton Hotel. It is the 12th such annual convention since motion picture star Billy Barty founded the organization in 1957 and recruited the first of its 20 original members.

Today, the LPA boasts a growing membership of 1,500 and an even faster growing enthusiasm for helping themselves.

IN WELCOMING the anticipated 300 delegates to Oregon, Gov. Tom McCall said: "In order to make the best possible life for yourselves — and to serve others like yourselves — you have decided to employ personal initiative."

"And because of your determined effort," McCall added, "the plan is succeeding."

Take for example Marilyn Zellman who joined LPA two years ago and has subsequently learned how to drive an automobile and has become a district director of the LPA.



CHARLES BEDOW

"... closeness and understanding"

"There were people who would have told you that Marilyn was too small to drive a car," explains Lee Kitchens, past LPA president.

BUT, THANKS to the inventive abilities of LPA member Bob East, she has driven her 1969 Rambler more than 5,000 miles in the past year.

"If he can build something for me," says Marilyn, who stands a diminutive 3-foot-2, "he can build it for anyone."

Others are learning to use East's gas and brake pedal extensions at the Portland convention, where a driver's education automobile simulator has been located to teach LPA delegates how to use the convenient implements.

A master mechanic, East, of Oakland, Calif., is the inventor of several gadgets which are helpful to dwarfs.

ONE IS a hook which telescopes to several feet in length to give the added extension little people need to reach elevator buttons, hat racks, grocery displays, pay phones, window shades, and the dozens of other "conveniences" which are hardly convenient for people four-feet tall.

Another is a portable clothes rack which extends to 30 inches and can be attached easily with long hooks to the rods in hotel closets. He has also designed a portable step-stool, which looks like a briefcase when not in use.

AND EACH year East shows up with new paraphernalia, according to past-president Kitchens.

"People are getting together here and sharing their experiences in adapting to their physical life," Kitchens explains. "Most of these things you can learn by example. People can believe what they see better than what they read or hear. Then they can go home and relate to their own problems."

Part of the "Think Big" philosophy is directed to helping "normal" parents to adapt to dwarfed children, and dwarfed parents to normal-sized children.

To accommodate the normal family members, an auxiliary has been created where discussion of common problems often helps the sometimes tricky adjustments.

WHEN NORMAL parents give birth to a "little little," the family is usually at a loss, says Kitchens. "The auxiliary can get together and discuss the frustrations and they can



REACHING for elevator button, with aid of telescopic gadget, is 3-foot-2 Mariiyn Zellman, of Young America, Minn., who is one of 300 delegates to week-long Little People of America convention at Hilton Hotel. LPA members swap ideas, inventions of use to dwarfed persons. (Journal photo by Brian Bell).

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"One man' not be for m "but at least I

EMPLOYM tion, foundat tional pursui study of short er areas whe made its mar thousands of will apparent so actively.

Their effor dwarfs to r tious — and i stand why.

As Charles it: "We ha





GEORGE "JOE" ALEXANDER of Goldendale, Wash., chairman of the Little People of America convention now in session at the Hilton Hotel, tries on golf sweater made specially for him by Eileen Nielsen (center). Mrs. Nielsen is of normal stature but gave sewing demonstration. Mrs. Ralph (Ferne) Vining (right) of Kelso won first prize in "made by self" category at little people fashion show. She wore a specially designed pants suit in the event.

By JEAN HENNIGER  
Women's Editor, The Oregonian

You think you have problems finding fashionable, becoming clothes that fit?

Think about the little people, those less than four feet, ten inches tall, now holding their national convention in Portland.

A highlight of their sessions was the fashion show where members modeled clothes they had either made themselves or bought and altered or had made.

While some little people are perfectly formed but tiny (midgets), many are

dwarfs (achondroplasts) and were born with normal torsos but short limbs, protruding hips and often large heads.

Normal except in stature, they like to look as attractive as other people do, but the real challenge is clothes.

According to Kathryn Smith, who coordinates the growth studies of Dr. Victor McKusick for Johns Hopkins Hospital and so attends many Little People conclaves, the fashion show strives to inspire others how to overcome their unusual figure problems.

Another judge, Eileen Nielsen, also gave a demonstration on how to sew, knit and stretch garments after having had Mrs. Ralph Vining in one of her private classes.

Mrs. Vining's husband, also a little person, had adapted her sewing machine, raising the pedal so she could reach it.

Another winner was Kayla Kuhlman, 11, a 4-H member who makes most of her own clothes. How does she reach the pedal?

"I put it on an upside-

down waste-basket."

Others stand at their machines.

And so there was a parade of garments, everything from ice skating outfit to ponchos, tunics, pants suits and jumpers.

## Children Steal Scene At Fashion Show

SECTION TWO

PAGES 1-8

### The Oregonian HOSTESS HOUSE

PORTLAND, OREGON, FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1970



KAYLA KUHLMAN, 11, is a third year 4-H sewing whiz in Poulsbo, Wash. She made her blue jumper with buckles, adapting a commercial size 6x pattern.

Staff Photos by BRUCE MCCURTAIN



FROM Cleburne, Tex., Mary Beth Eley, 24, modeled a yellow poncho suit she bought in youth shop. Bob Hubel, 21, of Post Falls, Idaho, congratulated her for winning third place in the "purchased" division.



TODDLERS STOLE show. Peter, 4, and his adopted sister, Karel, almost 3, wore costumes made by their normal sized mother, Mrs. Frank Reckendorf, Salem.

Male members watched, applauded, whistled at the pretty girls and were shushed by their wives.

And then there was a dance.

Motto of the organization: "Think Big."



THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1970



## Littles Go A Long, Long Way

**LOT OF SMILING,** little stretching marked 12th annual convention of Little People of America, Inc., winding up Friday for some 250 delegates (all 4 feet, 10 inches and under) at Portland Hilton. At left, convention honor guest Charles Pocock of Wickford, Essex, England, gets royal greeting from registration chairman Barbara Corbin of Tacoma, Wash., port 4-foot-2'er who stands up to type. Center, James Malecki, Ephraim, Wash., demonstrates special auto devices for small drivers, including extended brake, gas pedals, extra mirrors. Far right, 10½-year-old Sharon Whorton, Ponca City, Okla., shows life of "Little Littles," child delegates as she stretches for elevator button. (Journal staff photos by Herb Alden)

DRIVOTRAINER  
Driver Education Center  
894 2nd Ave.





1971



## Attitudes of, Toward Dwarfs Changing--for the Better

By ROBERTA DONOVAN

LEWISTOWN—Mr. and Mrs. Joe Alexander of Goldenvale, Wash., like other members of the Little People of America, Inc. (LPA), accept their small stature and try to overlook the stares of unthinking people.

"We know we are different, even though we don't want to admit it," Alexander said during a visit in Lewistown with his wife's mother, Mrs. John Brinkman, on their way home from the LPA convention in Atlanta, Ga.

"Children are curious about us," he said, "but it is an honest curiosity. Nothing hurts more than to have a well-meaning parent yank some little youngster by the hand to get them away from a situation they themselves can't handle."

Alexander feels the attitude of the general public toward dwarfs and the attitude of dwarfs themselves has changed a great deal in the last few years, and for the better.

Alexander, national LPA president, and his wife, Martha, are well-respected members of the eastern Washington community in which they live.

Employed as a speech therapist in the public schools of his county, he travels more than 1,000 miles a month in his specially equipped car, helping students in 10 schools.

"One of the great things about our (LPA) meetings, local, district or national," Alexander said, "is that we can relate to one another at eyeball level."

"When the morning business sessions were over, many of the 332 people attending the convention enjoyed sports and social activities."

"A lot of our members would be a little shy about going to a regular swimming pool or bowling alley, but when you are a majority there is no problem."

Although it is not intended as a "lonely hearts" club, the LPA has played Cupid in a number of romances, including that of Martha and Joe.

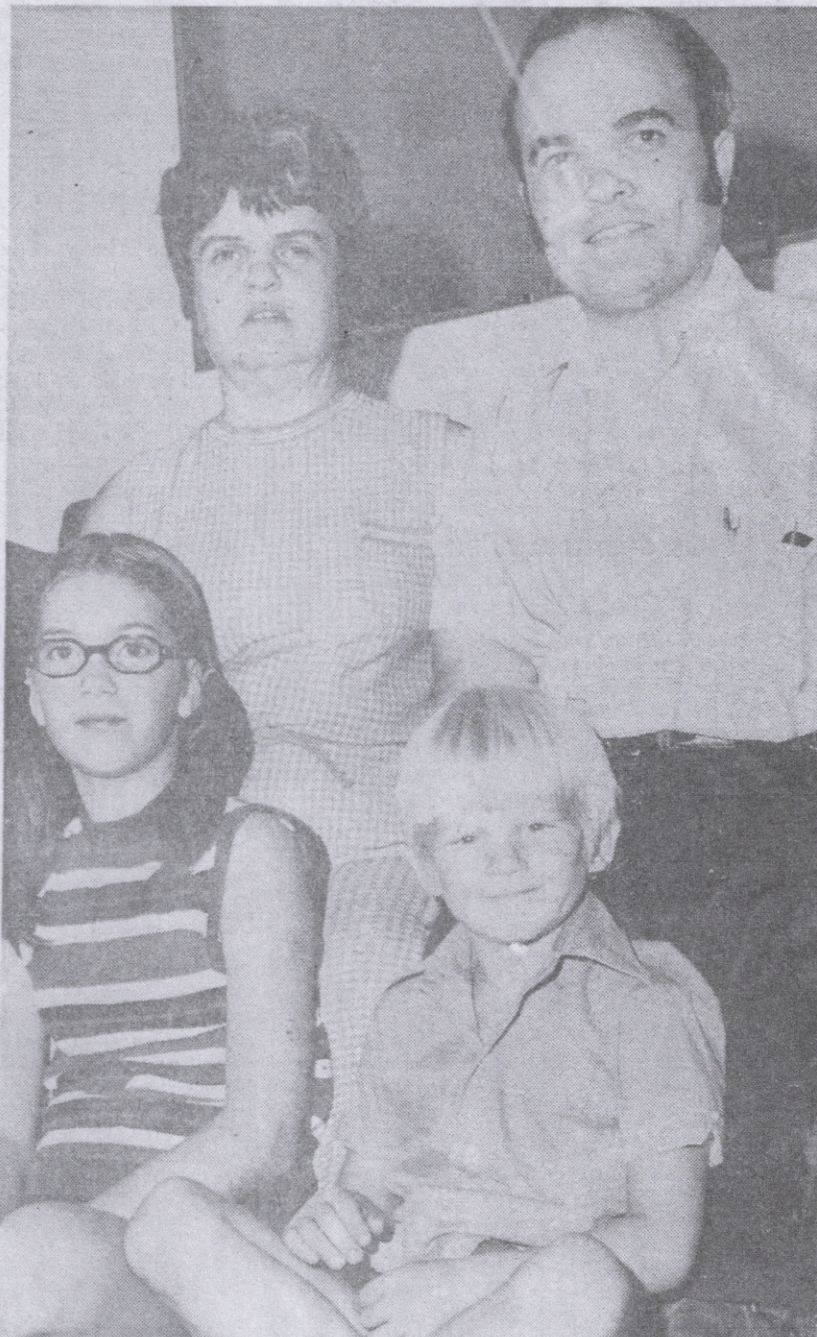
Organized just 13 years ago, the LPA has an ambitious program to help its nearly 2,000 members. A family organization, it has developed a special program for teen members and for children referred to as "Little Littles." There is a parents' auxiliary.

One of the greatest benefits to come from the national organization, Alexander said, is a growth study center at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md. In 1963 a group of doctors was given permission to attend an LPA convention. As a result the center was formed to study medical problems common to people of small stature. A medical advisory board was formed to counsel doctors in any part of the country who care for dwarfs.

Alexander explained there are more than 70 recognized types of dwarfism. His and Martha's is the most common; they have shorter than average arms and legs.

Dwarfs' inability to drive an ordinary car, dial the phone in a public booth or cook on a regulation-size stove are not the major concern of LPA.

"First of all," Alexander said, "we want to help the public realize our potential as individuals and, second, we want our members to realize their own abilities."



LPA PRESIDENT, FAMILY—Joe Alexander of Goldenvale, Wash., national president of the Little People of America, Inc., and his wife, Martha, pose with their normal-sized children, Dalla, 10, and Darin, 6. (Donovan Photo)



Musician, Former Trouper

June 24/71

## Scharrer Retires From Air Base Job

Louis R. Scharrer, 55, has retired as a civilian budget officer and analyst at Malmstrom Air Force Base where he worked since 1943.

Known throughout the state for his dance bands and Elks German Band, Scharrer started playing at country dances at age 13.

He was 12 when he played with the Montana Cowboys on KFBB Radio's first live show. Scharrer had his first dance band in high school.

After graduation from Great Falls High School, Scharrer toured with the Tom Mix Circus as a musician, midget and

speaker with the sideshow acts.

He toured with midget units in other circuses for nine years and appeared with Robert Ripley's Believe It or Not Odditorium in New York and San Francisco for two years. He toured Mexico, Canada and every state before he was 21.

During off-season months with the circus he played in night-club bands in Los Angeles.

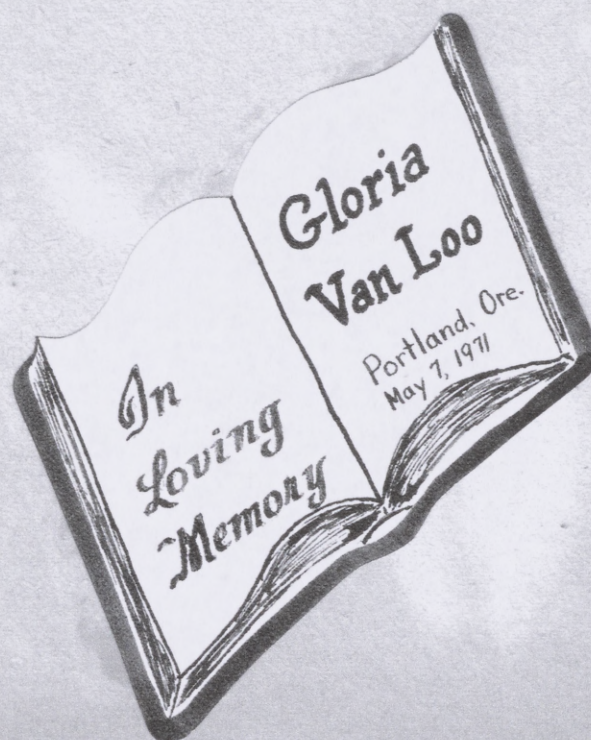
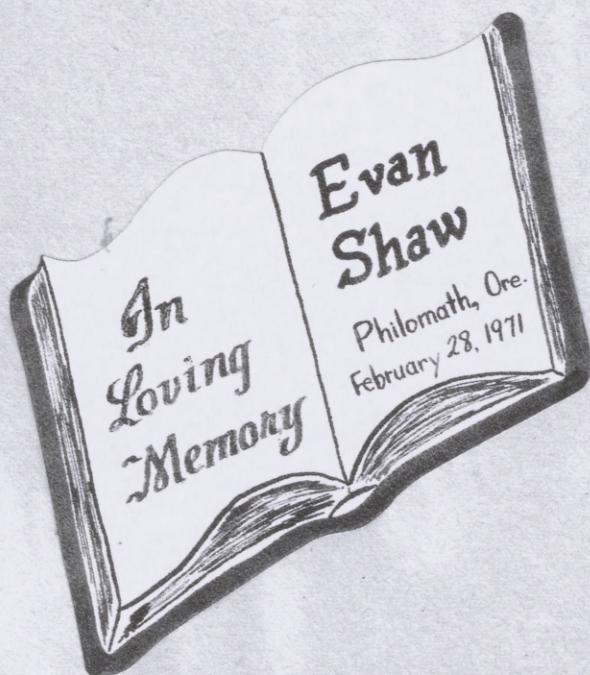
Scharrer, a member of the Easter Seal Society Board, does volunteer work with midgets and dwards and crippled children. A graduate of Great Falls Commercial College, he is a former president of Musicians Local 365.

Scharrer plans to remain in Great Falls and continue his dance band and work with the handicapped.

He will leave July 1 for a month's vacation in Ireland and a visit to London, where he will meet the president of the Little People of the British Isles. He will attend the national convention of Little People of America July 25-31 in Atlanta.



LOUIS SCHARRER





California Rhode Island  
North Carolina Florida Virginia Ohio  
Maine Michigan  
Wisconsin Nevada  
Vermont  
Nebraska Massachusetts Illinois Minnesota Georgia New York  
Indiana Kansas  
West Virginia Maryland  
Iowa Kentucky South Carolina  
South Dakota Arizona  
Texas Utah Louisiana  
Missouri Arkansas  
Colorado New Jersey Canada  
Oklahoma Mississippi  
New Mexico North Dakota New Hampshire  
Tennessee Delaware Hawaii  
Connecticut Washington D.C.

**Out of District News & Happenings**

Out of Dis





**SMALL DUO WITH BIG SMILES PLAN WEDDING**  
Maryjane Sutton and Neno Carlino are altar-bond.

## A Small Wedding For Happy Couple

It will be a small wedding—but only because the happy couple are midgets.

At four feet, two inches, Neno Carlino, 43, "towers" over his bride-to-be, Mrs. Maryjane Sutton, 35, at three feet, nine inches.

The couple took out a marriage license here yesterday.

Carlino, a widower and paper company maintenance man, of 912 Key Route Blvd., Albany, met his bride-to-be at a Little People's convention in Las Vegas last November.

Two weeks ago he went to Klamath Falls, where she owned and operated a grocery store and brought her and her

two daughters, Judy, 7, and Peggy, 9, to their new home here.

Carlino also has two children, Jackie, 4, and Anthony, 2.

"They're small like me," he said. "Maryjane's children are regular size."

No definite plans have been made for the wedding, except that it will be soon.

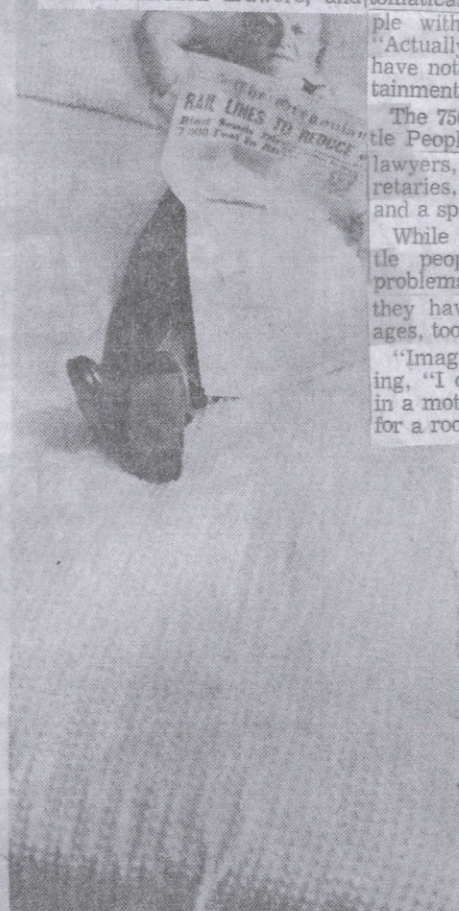
Carlino is a native of California and attended Berkeley schools.

Both are interested in bowling. He says she is the better bowler.

In fact, she bowled him over.



**COOKING** gives Billy's wife a lift when she uses stool to reach top of stove.



**SLEEPING** presents no problem. Single bed affords room for two (Von Wald)

## Damascus Little Fair Ambassador Finds Many Things Over His Head

By RICHARD FIELD  
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

"My problems are mostly little ones," said Little Billy Barty, summing up his difficulties in coping with life from the 3 foot 9 inch level.

"Sometimes things seem a bit over my head, but I usually rise to the occasion," he joked.

Little Billy is spending the summer in Gresham, working at nearby Damascus as Little Ambassador of the Little World's Fair.

Those little problems don't crop up at the fair—that's scaled down to Billy's size. They occur in everyday living, he said.

It might be reaching something off the top shelf of a supermarket counter, adjusting a shower nozzle in his motel room, or getting the ice tray from the refrigerator.

But bouncy Billy has had 37 years to find a way of overcoming his shortcomings. And nothing keeps him down for long.

In the supermarket he startles assistants by walking like an ant up the sides of the shelves, using them like a staircase.

### Balancing Act

At the deep freeze compartment, he does a gymnastic heave and balances on his stomach while he selects his frozen foods.

At the motel, where he's staying the summer, he pulls out the kitchen drawers, and

uses them to climb up to reach cans on the top shelf. His wife—she's 4 feet tall—stands on a little platform to reach the stove.

He strives today, as he has throughout life, to avoid letting his size interfere with his leading a normal and full life.

In college, in Los Angeles, he won his letter for football and basketball (he swears), and today plays a fine game of golf—"I shot an 89 on the west side of Glendoveer last week," he said.

He goes most places in a small English Sunbeam Rapier car, with a raised platform for his feet and extended controls.

### Trip Trouble-Free

"I drove here from Los Angeles in 21 hours without any trouble," he said.

Clothes are another of Billy's little problems. His suits have to be hand made and cost \$150 each. A pair of shoes may run him \$50 to \$75.

Billy admits he's more fortunate than most of America's little people. Some, he said, suffered from overprotection in their childhood, and have never really learned to face up to the bigger-than-life world.

This realization prompted Billy to form the Little People of America Association in 1957. The aim of the group is to bring sensitive people out of their shells, he explained.

"I get mad when people automatically associate little people with circuses," he said. "Actually 90 per cent of them have nothing to do with entertainment."

The 750 members of the Little People of America include lawyers, doctors, barbers, secretaries, cooks, photographers and a speech therapist.

While Billy admits that little people have their little problems, he pointed out that they have their little advantages, too.

"Imagine," he said, laughing, "I can get a single room in a motel, and it's big enough for a roomy double."





Tribune Photo by Thomas DeFeo

**CLIMB FOR WATER**—Sandra Kitchens 3, a "little little," uses one of the step-ladders placed at drinking fountains and counters at Hotel Kirkwood for the national Little People of America convention there this week. Sandra and her 7-year-old brother Alan are the adopted children of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Tex., delegates to the convention. "Little littles" are children who will not grow larger than the organization's height limit for members of four feet 10 inches tall. Sandra's mother is chairman of an accelerated adoption program sponsored by the organization as a go-between for little people and adoption agencies.

## Links Little Folks' Woe To Others

A little person's main psychological problem is not his awareness of his own size, a psychologist told the Little People of America convention Wednesday morning at Hotel Kirkwood.

"The problem is getting persons of average size to forget the difference," said Dr. Jackson



SMITH

Smith of Chicago, clinical director of the Illinois State Psychological Institute.

This is just a variation of the problem persons of all sizes face, Dr. Smith said.

### "A Mask"

"Every man wears a mask, representing the way he wants to appear to other peo-

ple. Unhappiness occurs when a person is made to realize the difference between the mask and what he is really like," Dr. Smith explained.

In this sense, little people are like ministers, Dr. Smith said. The public determines the kind of mask a minister

wears and demands that it never be removed.

"The closer a man is to the mask he wears, the better off he is psychologically," Dr. Smith said.

"If you ask a person what he is, he can't tell you usually, unless he has spent time in a hospital discussing it.

"If a person finds that he is better than his concept of himself, he feels good. If it seems that he has fallen below his concept, he feels bad."

### Dress, Talk

The indications of a person's concept of himself are his style of dress, the way he talks, and the subjects he likes to talk about, Dr. Smith said.

The fifth annual Little People convention will end Thursday. In Tuesday's meeting it was decided that the 1964 meeting will be at Phoenix, Ariz.

Earl M. Warr of Goodyear, Ariz., was appointed 1964 convention chairman by President Bob Brower of Scottsdale, Ariz.



**CONVENTION TUNE**—Dennis Binion of Atlanta plays a tune on piano for Phyllis Polston of Wixom, Mich., at the Little People of America convention here this week. Binion, 38, is an inspector for the U. S. Internal Revenue Service. He plays the piano in his church. Miss Polston, 25, who is three feet two inches tall, is the shortest delegate at the convention.



# ARIZONA DAYS & WAYS

July 12, 1964

THE REPUBLIC'S **Sunday** MAGAZINE



*Little People In The Big People's World*





Poolside at their Scottsdale apartment are the Bob Brower family. Adopted daughters are 5-year-old Cathy, Jeff, and Vicky, 9. Brower, comptroller at Smitty's Big Town, Scottsdale, is president of Little People of America, Inc., formed in 1955 by actor Billy Barty.

PHOTOGRAPHS, CHARLES R. CONLEY

## 'Don't Call Us Cute'

by Esther Clark



Furl Waddell can work in a 15-inch-diameter pipe to seal joints.

### Everything Is Looking Up For Little People

#### Who Will Gather Here For National Convention

THE 5-7½ VISITOR stood in the center of the living room and had the sensation of being in another world.

Not from the surroundings, however, for furniture and room dimensions were normal. It was the people standing and sitting in a circle.

Not one of the 14 was taller than 4 feet, 10 inches.

BUT, YES, THERE was one. When he arose to acknowledge an introduction to the guest, he loomed a grand 5-8.

"How do you do, and please meet my wife," said Furl Waddell. A pretty, white-haired woman, 53 inches high, smiled a welcome.

The guest, becoming less discomfited by unfeigned friendliness, then met the other members of the club, officially known as Little People of America, Inc., Phoenix Chapter.

"OUR TWO GIRLS, who are adopted and normal size, will be coming in soon

and we want you to meet them," said Bob Brower of Scottsdale. He is national president, whose 4 feet, 10 inches just get him under the membership wire for the association's maximum height.

Mrs. Brower, 2 inches over 4 feet, bustled about the room in white blouse and shorts. The rose-colored nail polish on toes of her doll-like feet twinkled as she flitted from one group to another, talking about the national convention July 19-23 at the Phoenix HighwayHouse.

Interrupting a chat on the convention fashion show she was having with Mrs. Danny Taylor, 3 feet, 9, Mrs. Brower held out a hand to sun-tanned daughter Cathy, 5, already almost as tall as her mother. A few minutes later, hazel-eyed Vicki, 9, came charging in, stooping to get a kiss and hug from mom.

"DO WE HAVE SMALL children just because we're small, you ask?" repeated 61-inch-tall Taylor from a stairway perch.

continued





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## Little People

from page 7

The Goodwill Industries TV-radio repairman hurried along with "It's something glandular that makes us small, but that doesn't necessarily mean our children will be. It's the same with half-pints, as with grownups, as to whether we have any at all."

His wife, Donna, nodded agreement from the depths of an upholstered chair whose seat front her feet failed to reach.

LIKE ALL THE FURNITURE, the chair is standard size—"to accommodate our many normal size friends," Brower explained.

"We have some housekeeping habits like some big ladies," interjected Mrs. Taylor. "When we're going to have big guests, we use stepladders to clean dust from the top shelves. We seldom see it

because we keep our everyday dishes on bottom shelves."

The Little Person in the chair next to her, Mrs. Maurice Alden, smiled as she said, "We couldn't get along without stools and stepladders. I carried a stool all through high school in New Hampshire."

MRS. ALDEN, A BUSINESS college graduate, is a bride of eight months. She and her husband, a precision mechanic at Motorola, met at a Little People's national convention in Las Vegas, Nev., in 1960.

"That wedding reception was really something," laughingly reminded Norman Brock. "We did whoop it up."

Brock and wife Etta, married 41 years, are retired show business performers and dance instructors. They have two daughters and five grandchil-



Mr. and Mrs. Furl Waddell enjoy trailer house living.

Neighborhood club



dren, all normal size except one granddaughter. "She's 8 and looks 4," he said.

MENTION OF THE wedding prompted Mrs. Brower to say she and the prospective bride were fortunate in finding a wedding gown.

"We saw a waltz-length dress for a little big person and were delighted. It made a floor-length gown for Marge."

Little People either buy small-size big people's clothing or have garments tailored, but the shoe problem is always not so satisfactorily solved.

"I CAN'T GET HIGH HEELS because the specialty houses only sell sizes 1 through 5, and I wear 12½ so have to buy children's shoes," said Mrs. Taylor, a child's size 11 in dresses.

Not clothing, not shoes, but employ-

ment is Little People's biggest worry. Club members are unanimous on this point.

"Back in 1918, I couldn't get a job as a stenographer," recalled Mrs. Alden's mother, Mrs. Alice Bourassa, a Little Person who was the second child of normal parents. "Things are better now, I know."

FROM THE COUCH came the soft voice of David Willer, another Goodwill employe, in the clothing department.

"Since I came from Chicago in 1961, I haven't been able to find a job in my printing trade. I've tried many places but they always give me some excuse."

The couch's fourth occupant, Miss Hazel Wilcoxson, related her unsuccessful efforts in trying to find a cashier's job or desk work.

continued



Norman Brock, left, discusses poultry raising hobby with Earl Warr, convention chairman, formerly in show business.



Neighborhood children are Mrs. Norman Brock's steady penny candy customers.





Footstool aid for Mrs. Maurice Alden, head bookkeeping machine operator at Smitty's Big Town, Scottsdale. She is 4-1.



Good housekeeping steps for Mrs. Danny Taylor. All her furniture is normal size.

## Little People

from page 9

BROWER BROKE IN TO report Little People are finding more employment because the public is becoming educated to the fact that "we can do just as good in a job as big people with the same ability."

The national convention, at which about 150 delegates are expected, will prove Brower's point. For the membership is represented by virtually every occupation, from barbers to bankers, from artists to accountants.

While the national membership is about 1,500, there are approximately 3,000 more Little Persons in the country, according to Brower's estimate. The problem is to convince non-members that hiding in a small world brings loneliness and unhappiness.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE in the Brower living room had an easy give and take conversation, even to good-natured ribbing.

"Behind you is one of the club's bachelors," said Brower, pointing to Clarence Hughes.

The visitor asked what Hughes does.

BROCK BEAT EVERYONE to the answer. "He drinks short beers and watches girls." The crowd roared and Hughes blushed furiously.

Hughes, 36, whose parents, three

brothers and sister are big people, puts his smallness to work for him. He seals joints inside storm drains, water lines and irrigation pipes.

"Standing near the door is the other bachelor," Brower said, looking toward Earl Warr, who turned out to be another retired vaudeville performer, a bounding wire artist.

Warr is 4-feet-6 and Little People's chairman of District 10 which includes Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. He is divorced from a nurse, 5 inches taller than he. Among other differences, he says, "We didn't see eye to eye."

WARR, ALSO CONVENTION chairman, took the joking with good grace, even the comment from Taylor about "making coffee money by dabbling in real estate."

Everyone smiled as Brock looked at Waddell, who was holding hands with his wife of 53 years.

"He's for us 100 per cent," Brock said of the retired Ohio cigar maker. "He is big but recognizes that Little People can live effectively in two worlds—small and large. His wife does."

MRS. WADDELL GLANCED at her husband and he tightened the hold on her tiny hand as she returned in memory

ving.





Brake and clutch extensions make driving a big car easy for Maurice Alden. He is a Motorola precision mechanic.

to Ohio. "I met my sweetie in a cigar factory."

The Waddells have one daughter, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, all normal size. "Our grandsons are 6-footers," she beamed.

A Little Person does not like to be stared at any more than does a big person, reminded Mrs. Taylor, adjusting a strap of her shift-type dress.

"WHEN I'M OUT WALKING and hear someone in back of me say, 'Isn't that cute!' I get so burned up I want to pop them."

Brower, picking up the subject, added: "Sure we go to night clubs, dances, restaurants and bowling alleys. If we're on the dance floor and big people stare at us, we walk off the floor. They soon get the message, and then we go back and dance."

Most Little People like to dance, he said. "We have no problem doing that. Our feet touch the floor."

AS THE 5-7½ VISITOR rose to leave, several of the Little People seemed anxious to know whether they seemed any different from a group of big people. They definitely do not.

"We'd like for you to come to our convention dance," Brower added over a goodnight handshake.







"Clarence is one of our most valued men," says a job foreman. Sometimes he goes to three or four locations a day to do job nobody else can do.



On his way to work, Hughes walks through ditch dug by pipe-laying crew. He normally works on binding previously laid section of pipe.

# Pipe Dream Job

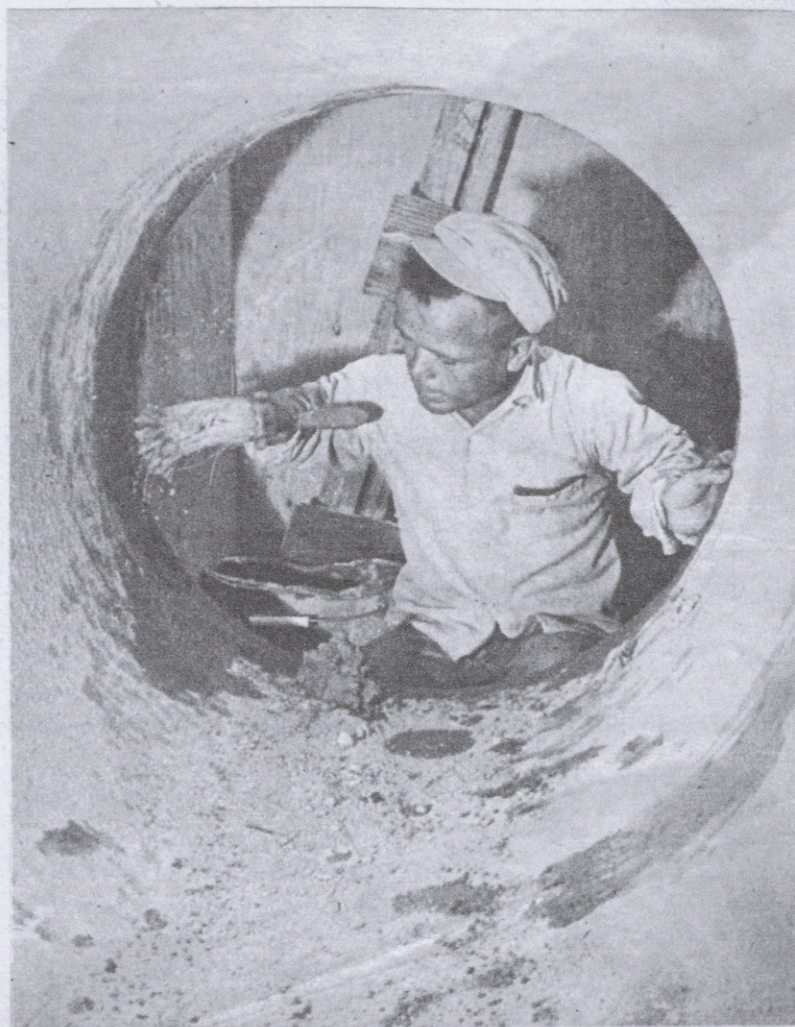
CLARENCE HUGHES doesn't have to worry about somebody else taking his job slot. An inside bender for concrete pipe, Hughes stands an even four feet tall. He can worm his way through fifteen-inch pipe, can turn completely around in a 24-inch tube, can almost stand up straight in 42-inch pipes, and has room to spare in the 54-inch mains.

As an employee of a Phoenix, Arizona, pipe company, Clarence reports for a regular eight hour duty on construction jobs. As pipe sections are laid, Clarence crawls through and cements the seams together. Ordinarily, he wiggles out for a daylight break

every hour, but Clarence has worked his way for as long as three blocks at a stretch without coming up for a breather.

Where long pipe tunnels already are laid out, Clarence lights his way with a miner's lamp, and either carries an air tank with him or hitches up a pump that blows fresh air to him.

Clarence, who is 34, is happy about the pay for his job, which is \$3.10 an hour. "That's better than I did in show business," he claims, both for money and time. Clarence travelled with a show troupe for eight years before he decided there must be a better way to earn a living.



Clarence Hughes' specialty is applying concrete binding to pipe ends, and smoothing out the seam. He has space to spare in 54-inch pipe.



## Tiny Actor Possesses Prodigious Mentality

NEW YORK (AP) — Pound for pound and inch for inch, Michael Dunn may well be the smartest man in the world.

But undoubtedly he is the most successful dwarf in show business since the late Tom Thumb.

Michael is 31, weighs 78, stands three feet and 10 inches in his stockings, and has an intelligence quotient of 178.

"Theoretically, I'm a genius," said Michael, peering owlishly through thick-lensed glasses over a plate of parsley at Downey's, his favorite Broadway saloon.

"Being a so-called genius doesn't mean you can do anything. But it is of some help to anyone. It makes your mind more fun."

For his role as the philosophic traveler in "Ship of Fools," Dunn became the first fellow his size ever to be nominated for an Academy Award. He recently completed work on a second film, "You're a Big Boy Now," and has two more lined up.

Also in the works are a Broadway play and a television series of his own called "Mastermind," in which he plays a detective who is "more cerebral than muscular."

"I'm not a professional midget — I'm an actor," carefully pointed out Michael, whose theater pals call him "Gremlin" and "The Purple Avenger."

"There's a difference. A midget gets carried onstage in a basket, pops out, says a funny line and runs off. I don't think that takes much talent."

"My lack of height is incidental. It would be foolish to say that people don't notice it, but I transcend it."

"Most stage parts for midgets or dwarfs are pratfalls."

But now they are writing me real roles."

Michael suffers from achondroplasia, a congenital but not hereditary disease also known as fetal rickets.

"I knew, by the time I was 3 or 4 that I would always be small," he said matter-of-factly. "But my mind gave me a good edge."

"I never got hung up emotionally because my parents wisely let me do what I wanted to as a child. They didn't over protect me. If they had, I'd have turned out to be a pretty sour character."

"I played football and basketball and got my nose broken a few times. I'm still a good swimmer and a very dirty water polo player."

Unable to achieve a career as a concert pianist, he started singing in night clubs at \$5 an evening; now on occasion makes \$2,000 for a single television performance.



### Midget To Take Bride

MICHAEL DUNN, 3 foot, 10 inch Broadway dramatic actor, climbs a ladder to pose with visiting girl friend, Phoebe Dorin, an off Broadway actress. Dunn and Miss Dorin, who is 5 feet, 2 inches tall, are discussing marriage and announcement is expected soon. He is in Hollywood to star in Stanley Kramer's "Ship of Fools".



"Loveless" no longer (as seen on Wild, Wild West), Michael Dunn is wed to model Joy Talbot. He's a talented 3' 10", she's a stunning 5' 5".

### DR. T. R. VAN DELLEN

## How to Keep Well

Dr. Van Dellen will attempt to answer questions pertaining to the prevention of disease if letters are addressed to him in care of The Spokesman-Review and are accompanied by return stamped envelope.

### Small Size

When dwarfism is caused by a glandular disorder, growth may be stimulated with a pituitary hormone obtained from humans; material from animals does not work. Treatment must be started at an early age, before the child's potential for growth is completed. The major stumbling block is that human growth hormones are in short supply. The fresh pituitary gland of a human corpse supplies the daily needs of only one youngster.

According to Dr. John Money, Johns Hopkins medical psychologist, the dwarf encounters many social problems as a child and as an adult. This situation will continue unless researchers find a way to increase our supply of growth hormones.

When the short child is treated according to size, not age, he may respond by acting like an immature person. Infantile behavior has many drawbacks as the child grows older. Those who rebel against coddling may suffer from neurotic tendencies.

Dwarfs get along best by capitalizing on their size (less than five feet). Those who develop the Tom Thumb or mascot attitude thrive on being well known because they are tiny. The situation is perfect when their environment is such that they are able to function despite short stature. A sense of humor and enough cleverness to counteract teasing or name calling further enhance their lot in life.

A realistic approach is attained when mother and dad have not overprotected the youngster. It is also wise to tell him the truth about the possibility of being shorter than average. Counseling by an expert helps the parents and their tiny offspring. For example, the youngster should dress according

1965







